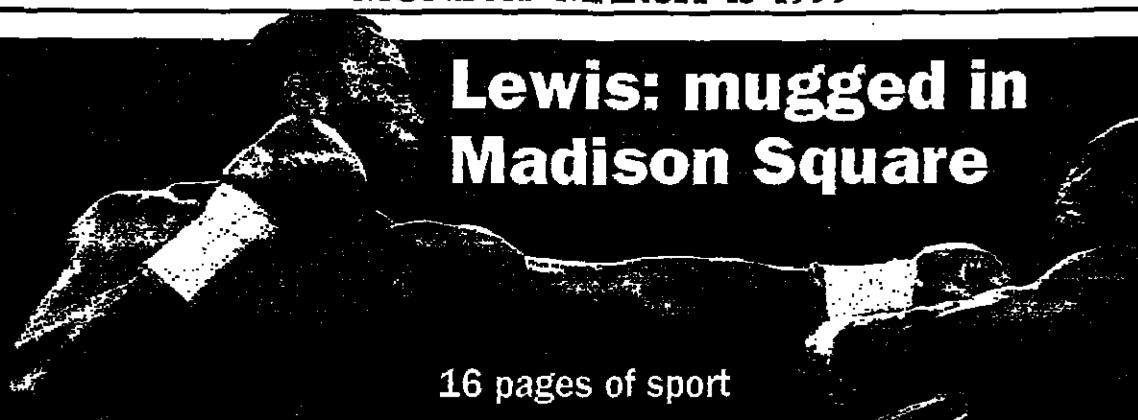
THE TIMES

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FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS 100,000 tokens to be won: pages 24,41



Paris fashion by Lisa Armstrong pages 16,17

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Bosses and unions in joint protest

Budget lorry tax threatens 50,000 jobs

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

BRITISH industry today delivers a severe post-Budget warning to the Government that its transport taxation policies could cost 50,000 jobs in three years and drive haulage companies abroad.

In a challenge to Labour's pro-business credentials, the country's leading industrial organisations have combined to condemn Gordon Brown's big increases in fuel costs and taxes on commercial vehicles.

The CBI, British Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, National Farmers Union, Freight Transport Association, Road Haulage Association and the United Road Transport Union, which represents lorry drivers, have written to *The Times* saying that current taxation policy will result in more job losses than if the Rover plant at Longbridge were to close. They warn the Chancellor that his Budget will damage industry's ability to compete.

Their unprecedented move comes amid signs that hundreds of lorry firms are considering moving their fleets to the Continent because of the growing gap in taxation levels between the United Kingdom and the rest of the European Union.

The Times has learnt that Eddie Stobart, Britain's biggest private haulier, is threatening to register half his 800-strong fleet in Belgium or Luxembourg, a move that could save the Carlisle-based firm up to £2 million a year.

He has already registered some lorries in Holland.

The latest tax rises make large-scale overseas registration a realistic prospect for the first time. The annual cost of taxing a lorry increased by £2,500 to £5,750 in last week's Budget and is well over twice the next highest figure, charged in Austria, and 12 times the cost in France. In Portugal, the cheapest EU country, the cost of taxing a standard lorry is only £308 a year.

In addition, the escalating cost of diesel has meant that filling up a lorry now costs £300 more in Britain than in France. Hauliers claim that the Treasury loses £400 million a year because lorry drivers fill up at overseas ports rather than in Britain.

The Road Haulage Association (RHA) has been deluged with queries from hundreds of operators asking for information on how to "flag out" all or part of their lorry fleets to the Continent. While Mr Brown made Budget concessions for light vans, the diesel duty increase lifts the pump price from 64p to 70.6p a litre.

In their letter, the business organisations say that diesel prices in Britain are already twice as high as the highest in Europe. With vehicle excise duty 11 times higher in Britain than France "it is not surprising that hundreds of transport operators are actively seeking to register their vehicles abroad".

And they warn that recent statistics show that a total of 53,000 jobs will disappear from the transport and related industries by 2002 unless current policies are changed.

Hauliers' leaders have also alerted ministers to the huge growth in the number of overseas lorries now operating in Britain, partly because French drivers can buy enough cheap fuel to undercut the prices charged by their British rivals.

The most recent figures show 690,000 overseas lorries entering Britain in the year to September 1998, compared to 484,000 in 1996.

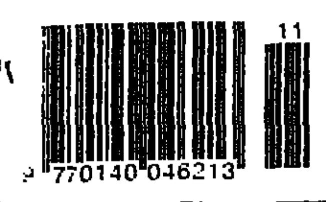
Senior haulage industry figures admit that overseas registration has some pitfalls and may not suit all companies. Additional local taxes and compulsory overseas insurance can add substantially to costs.

Geoff Dossetter, of the Freight Transport Association, said: It won't suit everyone but, although hauliers have often talked about this in the past, we are now seeing a lot of people actually making serious inquiries."

Steve Norris, the former Tory Transport Minister and director general of the RHA, said yesterday: "The cost of taxing the big 40-tonne, five-axle lorries is £476 in France. Here it costs £5,750. That is ridiculous. The Government must review its taxation policies because they are damaging industry."

In another letter to *The Times* today Bernard Jenkin, the Shadow Transport Minister, says that lorries registered in the UK are completely uncompetitive with their EU counterparts. Registering 50 lorries abroad would save an operator hundreds of thousands of pounds a year, Mr Jenkin claims.

Letters, page 21





Rebecca Groves, the teenager who was killed while she was walking home alone after a night out

Girl found strangled in woods after sex assault

BY WARWICK MANSELL

THE distraught parents of a murdered 17-year-old beautician, whose body was discovered in woodland on the edge of a Leicestershire village, spoke last night of the loss of a "wonderful" daughter.

Police believe Rebecca Groves was sexually assaulted and strangled as she walked home from a pub in the village of Thringstone, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, after a night out on Friday.

Her body was found dumped in woods known locally as "Spooky Forest", half a mile from the road along which she would have walked. A post-mortem examination showed evidence of sexual assault, and that death was by asphyxiation.

Miss Groves's stepfather, John Murphy, and her mother Alison were too distressed to talk in public but spoke of their grief in a statement released through Leicestershire police.

"We have not yet even begun to understand what has happened or why," they said. "Rebecca was a wonderful young woman who had her

Rebecca's last walk................3

whole life in front of her. Right now the family needs time to be together and to comfort and support each other."

Police said Miss Groves may have known the killer and residents have spoken of their concern that the murderer could be living among them.

Yesterday detectives combed the wood and carried out house-to-house inquiries. An incident room was set up at Loughborough police station.

Detective Superintendent Graham Thomas, leading the investigation, said: "Her death is a tragedy and our hearts go out to family and friends. Anyone who thinks they can help to find who is responsible must come forward."

Miss Groves had a large circle of friends and there was a genuine sense of shock throughout the village last night. Prayers were said yesterday morning at the village church for the teenager, who one friend said had dreamt of working on a cruise ship.

Janet Cufflin, a resident, said: "The whole village is devastated. We cannot believe what has happened. My granddaughter said she has had an ache in her heart about what has happened.

"You don't expect this in a village like this one. The only thing you can do for the family is be there for them."

Last night, a 20-year-old man was helping police with their inquiries at the Loughborough police station.

Judges give the noble art a black eye

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE decision in America was unanimous: the sport of boxing suffered a big black eye. American commentators yesterday joined the thousands of British fans who made the trip to New York in denouncing the inexplicable draw declared between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield.

A celebrity-studded crowd, including Keith Richards, Spike Lee, Jack Nicholson, Michael Douglas, Michael J. Fox, Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew Broderick, Donald Trump and John F. Kennedy Jr, jeered as the third judge, Larry O' Connell of Britain, failed to give Lewis the win. Both New York tabloids agreed in front-page headlines that Lewis was robbed, a sentiment that was echoed throughout the American press.

"Lennox Lewis beat Evander Holyfield from here to London — with stopoffs in Jamaica and Canada along the way — and back again, " wrote Wallace Matthews, boxing correspondent of the *New York Post*.

"They robbed Lennox Lewis of the championship he won in the ring," wrote Tony Kornheiser of the *Washington Post*. "They damaged the sport they love. They called a fight a draw when it had been no such thing. It was like Three Blind Mice were scoring. Two Blind Mice anyway."

Even the staid *New York Times* the decision resembled "a Brinks truck heist perpetrated in front of 21,284" fans. Computer statistics showed the fight was not even close.

Spike Lee, the Hollywood director, said: "Evander is my man but Lewis won that fight."

Lewis landed 348 of his 613 punches, or 57 per cent, while Holyfield connected with only 130 of his 385 attempts, or 34 per cent. The Associated Press scored the match 117-111 to Lewis, as did the veteran referee Harold Lederman, who was keeping score for the American pay-per-view TV audience estimated at 1.1-1.4 million homes.



I wish we could have the judge from the Lewis-Holyfield fight"

But Eugenia Williams, the American judge who gave the match 115-113 to Holyfield, said: "I scored by the blows that connected. I do not have the privilege of the box stats. I did a round-by-round."

Ray Jones Jr, the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council's light heavyweight champion, commentating on TV, said he was ashamed by the decision. The result provoked immediate calls for a federal investigation and new government controls on the sport, with many questioning the role of the veteran promoter Don King. The appeals for reform will not be lost on one member of the audience, Republican Senator John McCain of Arizona, who once made an effort to regulate boxing.

"In my opinion, I thought Lennox Lewis won the fight," the former New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato said.

Outside Madison Square Garden, even Americans who had been cheering for Holyfield said Lewis had been cheated of victory. "He got that special American shaft, the one with the flag wrapped around it," explained Reg Bullock, a New York lawyer who watched the fight.

The 8,000 British fans who travelled to New York kept their heads on their shoulders and did not try to replay the fight outside the arena.

"What impressed me is the English," said Alan Isherwood, who made the trip from Woodford, Essex. "They have come here. They have been completely ripped off, and they have walked away. They have turned the other cheek."

Punch drunk fans, page 5
Leading article, page 21
Fight reports, pages 25, 27

INSIDE

£200m Longbridge deal

The Government will tomorrow offer BMW, the German car maker, a deal to save Rover's Longbridge plant and up to 10,000 jobs. Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, will tell the management that £200 million in aid is available but that this must be matched by an investment of up to £1 billion to bring about increased efficiency. Mr Byers will propose that some of the money will be dependent on the firm showing that its productivity is increasing............ Page 48

Lafontaine blames Right

The former German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine broke his silence since resigning and accused Gerhard Schröder's team of letting him down. He told the Social Democratic Party not to swerve to the right: "The heart is not yet traded on the stock exchange. It has a home, and it beats on the left." He felt that the Chancellor was making too many concessions to big business..................... Page 13

Kosovo's deadly peace

Kosovo suffered its worst weekend of violence since the Paris peace talks began. Three bomb attacks, one in a marketplace, left seven people dead and 58 wounded and Serb artillery devastated ethnic Albanian villages. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that the talks, which resume today, must produce a quick result and they could be wound up within a week if there was no agreement......... Page 12

Blair is warned of looming electoral rout

Candidates fear they will pay for the neglect of the Millbank machine, reports Roland Watson

TONY BLAIR has been warned that thousands of Labour seats are at risk in the looming round of elections because the party's machine is not geared up for the fight.

Mr Blair is said to be concerned at the extent to which the operation at Millbank Tower, the party's headquarters, is being criticised by Labour candidates.

Euro MPs have complained that the campaign for the June European elections is not up to scratch. Candidates standing for the Scottish and Welsh assembly elections have voiced similar complaints, with one MP describing the election preparations as "shambolic".

Concern centres on the lack of money and manpower compared with the general election campaign of 1997. The number of staff at Millbank is down by nearly a third and party finances are in the red.

The local, European, Scottish and Welsh elections in May and June present the biggest challenge so far for Margaret McDonagh, who took over as Labour's general secretary six months ago. In council elections alone, Mr Blair has been warned, the party could lose up to 2,400 of its [illegible] seats if by-election trends of the past 12 months hold up.

One figure close to the Prime Minister said of the task before Ms McDonagh: [illegible] enormous test for [illegible] give her the [illegible] but she [illegible] Tony to win [illegible]

[illegible] professionalism [illegible] Millbank operation during [illegible] campaign that [illegible] of all other [illegible] incoming Tory [illegible] Hague has [illegible] of its features [illegible] the creation of [illegible] the Tory Central [illegible]

[illegible] elections [illegible] has been [illegible] landslide [illegible] architects [illegible] Gordon [illegible] Mandelson, [illegible] and [illegible] other high [illegible] including [illegible] the post of director [illegible] communications, and [illegible] who was [illegible]

[illegible] press officers has also left. Those among the 130 staff still at Millbank say the candidates' complaints reflect the impossibility of recreating a general election atmosphere in mid-term.

However, MPs are raising serious concerns about the readiness of the campaign, questioning the party's presence on the ground. "We are just not getting our message across effectively to our own supporters, let alone the public," said one.

Another warned: "We will pay a price. Call it a bloody nose or whatever, but we have not got a Rolls-Royce machine any more."

Ms McDonagh has a reputation as a fearsome organiser, but has been accused of lacking "people management skills", and of being out of touch with the political world outside Millbank.

Her team will shortly be beefed up by the arrival of Phil Murphy as a new assistant general secretary in charge of communications. Mr Murphy, a former Westminster journalist, is currently serving out his notice as director of communcations at the Arts Council.

When he arrives next month to take up a post that has been vacant since last summer, the party will be just weeks away from the biggest mid-term test of electoral opinion ever.

MP in massage parlour

By Richard [illegible], Home Correspondent

A VETERAN Labour MP was in a massage parlour when it was raided by police investigating alleged illegal immigration.

The MP, who has a North of England constituency, was seen by police when they arrived at the parlour in Northampton. He did not give his name to officers but it is understood that his identity was revealed when checks were made on his car registration.

Yesterday his agent said [illegible] married man, [illegible] to make on [illegible] incident four months ago [illegible] police and immigration officers arrived at [illegible] The agent added: [illegible] his solicitor's [illegible] to make no [illegible]

[illegible] Northamptonshire [illegible] man was [illegible] the premises but that [illegible] officers as a [illegible] spokesman [illegible] took place on a Thai massage parlour in Kingsley Park Terrace at the end of November ... There was a male person on the premises, who was committing no criminal offence."

Police are still carrying out inquiries into the parlour and five Thai women are on police bail. Twelve Thai women were taken into custody and seven deported after the raid. The seven were found to be illegal immigrants or had overstayed their visas.



Ulrika Jonnson and her son Cameron arriving in Leicester Square yesterday for the premiere of *The Rugrats Movie*

Major backs Hague over euro in struggle for unity

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR made a rare return to frontline politics yesterday to throw his support behind William Hague's opposition to the euro. The former Prime Minister said that he would vote against the euro if a referendum were held now or in a few years' time.

Mr Hague also won a welcome filip when Michael Heseltine made what effectively amounted to a pledge of loyalty to the Tory leader. Senior Tory sources recently warned that pro-Europeans such as the former Deputy Prime Minister would face expulsion from the party if they stepped out of line on Europe, but Mr Heseltine went out of his way at the weekend to denounce publicly two MEPs who recently left the Tory party and set up their own Pro-Euro Conservative Party. And although Mr Hague denied that there was any formal truce, he said yesterday that there was now "mutual respect" between him and the pro-European wing of his party.

In an interview with the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme, Mr Major said: "I would not go into the euro at the moment. I would vote No. If there was a referendum in the next few years, I would certainly vote No to abolishing sterling and entering into the euro."

Mr Heseltine, speaking at a fringe meeting of the Tory party's spring forum in Reading, said it was the "height of folly" for the MEPs John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly to set up a breakaway pro-euro party. He said that he "deplored" the decision and dismissed speakers urging him to vote for the new group.

"I do not believe that weakening the Conservative Party advances the prospect of power for that party," he said. "I believe that great political parties are coalitions of many views and traditions. It is incumbent on those who hold deep views to express them within the great force that is the Conservative Party."

But Mr Stevens, speaking on ITV's *Sunday* programme, insisted that voters must be given the opportunity to vote for a pro-European Tory party. He said: "There is no prospect of unity on the centre-right of British politics until the issue of Europe is resolved and that will come in a referendum on the single currency."

Mr Hague told BBC1's *On the Record* that pro-European MPs such as Ian Taylor and David Curry should not be "driven out of the Conservative Party". He said: "Those people are Conservatives and the Conservative Party is going to remain a broad church. People are allowed to be Conservatives without agreeing with 100 per cent of the policies. But the party's policy on this is clear."

Mr Major's remarks over Europe - pre-recorded last Thursday - were overshadowed by reports that he was angry at Mr Hague's repeated criticism of the party's record. Mr Hague told Tories in Reading that the party should admit to past mistakes so it can focus on the future and stop Labour reminding voters about past Tory administrations. He insisted this was not being "disloyal" to past leaders.

But a senior Tory said that Mr Major was "offended by these non-stop apologies". And Alan Clark, Tory MP for Kensington and Chelsea, told *Sunday*: "I don't feel at all comfortable with the way he's attacking his immediate predecessors. He may disclaim this but in fact the criticisms were levelled at Mrs Thatcher and John Major."

EMU BACKERS READY FOR BIG PUSH

Supporters of the European single currency will today fire the first shots in what will be effectively the start of a three-year referendum campaign to take Britain into the euro. A cross-party group of businessmen, politicians and trade unionists will launch Britain in Europe, a new umbrella group pushing for early entry into euroland.

The group, headed by Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, chairman of British Airways, is lined up against many unco-ordinated anti-single-currency bodies which have not yet decided if and how they should form a single grouping. Britain in Europe's board includes Lord Hollick, chairman of United News and Media, Giles Radice, MP, of the European Movement, Colin Sharman, of KPMG International; and Menzies Campbell for the Liberal Democrats.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gene food firms agree 'voluntary' crop delays

The Government and the biotechnology industry are on the brink of an agreement that will prevent genetically modified crops being planted in Britain at least until the year 2002.

The decision will be hailed as a "voluntary" deal by ministers when it is unveiled shortly. Tony Blair, who has publicly backed the benefits of GM crops, does not want to be seen to be forcing the industry to take decisions and there will be no government ban. But, according to informed sources, it will amount to an acceptance by industry that that there was little chance of getting the go-ahead to plant crops in the current sensitive climate over GM foods.

A three-year delay would be in line with the stance of English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisory body, which has said there should be a moratorium until more data is available.

Balloon record

Brian Jones, 51, from Wiltshire, and Bertrand Piccard, 41, from Switzerland, the pilots of the balloon *Breitling Orbiter 3*, last night broke the 14,235-mile distance record for an unfuelled non-stop flight. They were next hoping to join a jet-stream near Hawaii in their attempt to be the first round the world.

Man and son die

A father who separated from his wife two weeks ago was found dead with his two-year-old son after telling his parents they were going to the seaside. The bodies of Richard Brinnen, 26, and his son Daniel were discovered in a fume-filled car in the garage of Mr Brinnen's parents' home in Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire.

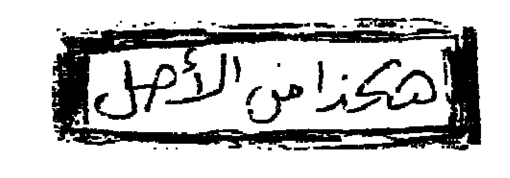
Royal aide quits

A secretary in the Prince of Wales's office resigned after allegations of sexual harassment against one of his aides. Juliet Franks left because she was unhappy at the handling of her complaints against his assistant private secretary, Nick Archer, who is with the Prince in the Falklands.

Prince's homage, page 6

Bronze Age find

Beachcombers at Spurn Point, East Yorkshire, have found a piece of wood that experts say belonged to a 4,000-year-old Bronze Age plank boat. Robert Van de Noort, an archaeologist from Hull University, said: "This coastal find supports evidence that this kind of boat was used for inter-continental trading."



Community in grief at girl's murder

Police fear teenager was killed after accepting lift on her way home from pub, reports **Warwick Mansell**

A RURAL community was in a state of shock yesterday after a 17-year-old student was murdered as she walked home from a night out at a pub.

Police discovered the body of Rebecca Groves in Charnwood Forest, a beauty spot known locally as Spooky Forest, *on the edge of the village of* Thringstone, near Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire.

Miss Groves had spent Friday evening with a girlfriend and her friend's boyfriend, in the village's Hare and Hounds pub. She was last seen alive at 11.20pm, leaving by foot to make the 1½-mile trip to her parents' terraced house in the village, despite pouring rain.

But she never arrived home. Her anxious mother, Alison, and stepfather, John Murphy, contacted the police after conducting their own frantic search for Miss Groves, a hair-and-beauty student at nearby Coalville Technology College.

Police found her body dumped half a mile from the lane she would have used to get home, at 6.30am on Saturday. The road has fields on one side and houses on the other. The teenager had been sexually assaulted and strangled.

Yesterday police were looking into the possibility Miss Groves could have known her killer.

> ‘She was a pleasant girl. Her parents were strict about her getting home’

Detective Superintendent Graham Thomas, leading the investigation, said: "One of the possibilities is that she was offered a lift by someone. We cannot say whether she knew *the attacker, but she was not* the kind of girl to accept a lift from someone she did not know." The fact it was raining heavily at the time may also have tempted her to accept a lift, he added.

He added: "Her death is a tragedy and our hearts go out to family and friends. Anyone who thinks they can help find who is responsible must come forward now."

Mr Thomas added that the body was found just yards into the woodland near a lay-by on the fringes of Thringstone.

Police teams, including a helicopter, searched the woods yesterday, and carried out house-to-house inquiries. Customers who were at the pub on Friday night were questioned, and an incident room set up at Loughborough police station.

As Mrs Groves spoke of her grief in a statement last night, police said her daughter's natural father, Paul Groves, had been informed of her death.

Alwyn Hill, who runs the Hare and Hounds pub, which had been hosting a 40th birthday party on Friday night, *said: "The whole village is in* shock. No one can believe this has happened on our own doorstep, and for all I know I may have served the killer. It is horrific.

"The young girl was in here on Friday night — she had arranged to meet her friend in *here — but said she was run*ning late. The place was packed, and there were about 30 strangers. She was not in here long. She was a very pleasant, *well-mannered girl and her* parents were strict about her getting home by 11pm. I got woken in the early hours because her parents were looking for her."

Agnes Smith, who represents Thringstone on the district council, said: "People are *worried about their families. I* know that one man is not letting his daughter out of his sight, and others are worried about their children. It's an *anxious time for everyone.*"

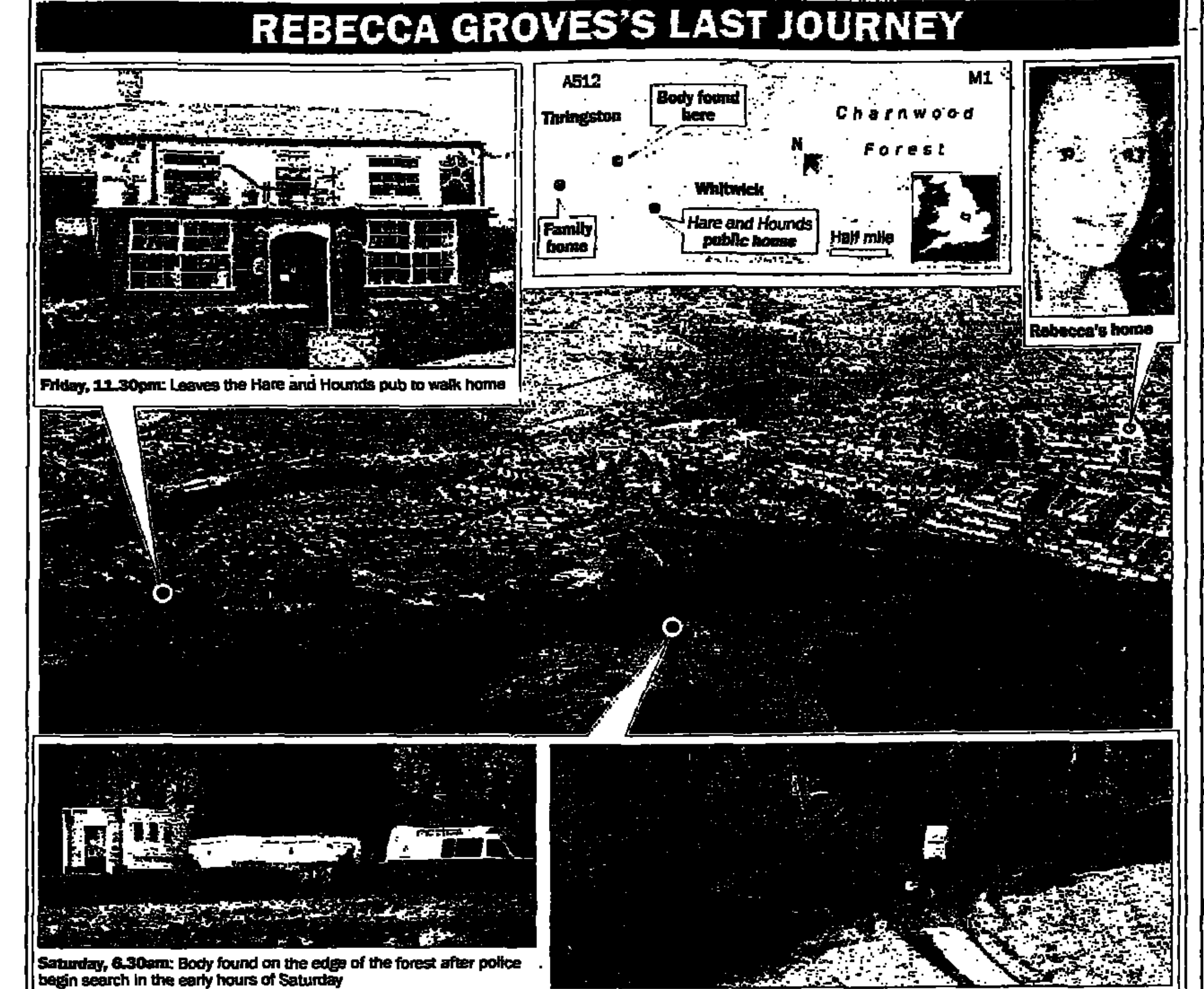
A 16-year-old schoolgirl said: "I don't know why Rebecca would have gone to the wood, as we know it as Spooky Forest. *It looks so scary.* It's very dense, and there are rocky outcrops that you can imagine people hiding behind."

*Rebecca's friend, Mark Fer*guson, 17, said: "She was a really nice girl and very popular in the village. She was always very polite and took time out to *talk to people. It is absolutely* terrible what has happened. It is such a tragic waste."

Prayers were said for Miss Groves at *St Andrew's, the vil*lage church. The vicar, the Rev Ken Watson, said: "We should pray for the family today. I know we will want to support *the family in any way we can.*"

Another friend of Miss Groves said: "She wanted to be a hairdresser and dreamed of working on a cruise ship. *It's hard to believe she's dead.*"

Last night police said that a man aged 20 was being held in connection with the death.



Friday, 11.30pm: Leaves the Hare and Hounds pub to walk home

Saturday, 6.30am: Body found on the edge of the forest after police begin search in the early hours of Saturday

Boy dies in freak model plane accident

By Christine Middap

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy was killed by a model aeroplane yesterday as he and his father watched a club display.

Witnesses said the plane dived out of the sky and hit the boy in the back of the head, throwing him forwards.

The accident happened at a private model aeroplane club in Colney Heath, Hertfordshire.

It is understood to have been the first time the father and son had visited the site. Inspector Tony Scott, speaking from the scene, said the boy's father had wanted to become a club member. "The pair had been watching the air display from a designated safe zone which is cordoned off with cones.

"When the emergency services got here, the boy was already dead. His fa*ther was extremely trauma*tised and cradling his dead son in his arms," he said.

Robert Drury, a neighbour and remote control *aeroplane enthusiast*, said: "Those aeroplanes are lethal weapons. They come flying down from 1,000ft with engines spinning at 12,000 revs a minute."

However, he added that accidents were rare and that clubs enforced strict safety rules and had designated flying areas.

About an hour before the accident, a group of people had been asked to leave the club. Andrew Homeyard, 27, said: "We were politely asked to move back to the car park because as nonmembers we were not covered by the club's insurance. There are loads of signs warning people about the model planes."

Graham Lynn, MBE, the general secretary of the British Model Flying Association, said an inquiry would be held into the accident. Police were last night questioning the shocked controller of the plane.

Computer retailers 'snub women's buying power'

By Alexandra Frean
Social Affairs Correspondent

COMPUTER showrooms are dominated by a macho culture that patronises women and ignores their growing purchasing power, a new study has found.

Condescending attitudes towards female customers are common in stores that sell information technology products and services, such as personal computers, Internet access and mobile telephones.

The study, conducted by the public relations company Cohn & Wolfe, also found that IT advertising and marketing fail to take advantage of the growing number of computer-literate "techno-femmes" or "IT girls".

James Murphy, the author of the study, said that while some computer and mobile telephone companies had tried to appeal to women by changing the design or colour of their products, such a superficial approach would lead only to short-term gains.

He cites the case of the Apple iMac in 1998, a personal computer with a new, curvy design, which was advertised with the slogan "Chic. Not geek".

"How does that help the women who say they would like to improve their hi-tech skills and learn more about the new communication technologies?" he asked.

Mr Murphy said that IT companies were losing a valuable segment of the market by failing to address the needs of women, many of whom need new technology to help them juggle the demands of their work and home lives.

"There is very little evidence that women's social progress and professional success is being actively recognised in the marketing used to sell technology," he said.

A Gallup poll conducted for the study suggests that the perception of men as being interested in how technological products work and of women as being interested only in aesthetics, was wrong.

It found that 30 per cent of women and 27 per cent of men were very interested in all the specific details when buying a personal computer. When it came to buying Internet access, the figures were 18 per cent for men and 16 per cent for women. But when asked how confident they felt when buying such products, 19 per cent of men said they were very confident, compared to just eight per cent of women.

Mr Murphy said that the relative lack of confidence of women was due in part to the fact that IT sales people were less sensitive to their needs.

"There is no doubt that women with jobs are still doing more household tasks than men. The New Man was a myth that lasted about ten minutes. IT companies should connect with this reality of women's lives and give them something of value," he said.

Sarah Woodbridge, a spokesperson for Cyberia, which runs eight Internet cafes, said that there was no evidence to suggest that women knew less about computers than men.

Ms Woodbridge said that 45 per cent of customers at the company's cafes were women.

"When I am with clients, they will often turn to my male colleagues to ask a computer question, whereas I am the one that actually knows the answers," she said.

BT faces suit for mobile phone 'brain damage'

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A FORMER *British Telecom* engineer is planning to sue the company over brain damage that he claims was caused by using mobile telephones.

*Stephen Corney, 39, said yes*terday that he believed his short-term memory loss was linked to the use of mobile phones for hours at a time during his job.

He left BT last summer and his lawyers have now issued a protective writ, which allows them three months in which to compile medical and scientific evidence to back his case. They plan to seek more than £100,000 in damages.

Mr Corney worked for BT from 1986 until 1996, when he *left on sick leave. He said that* after using digital mobile telephones he felt as if there was a "steel band round my head and the longer I stayed on the phone the tighter it got", and that the area around his ear would heat up.

He said that he had an itch in his ear that felt like a trapped insect, and that after using the mobile telephone he often felt "punch drunk".

Mr Corney, who lives in Bedfordshire with his partner and their three children, said: "*When I was first off work I* would go shopping and I would have to have everything on a list. I would then put the shopping in the boot of the car, get into the car and see the list *and not realise I had already* done it and so I would go back and do the shopping again.

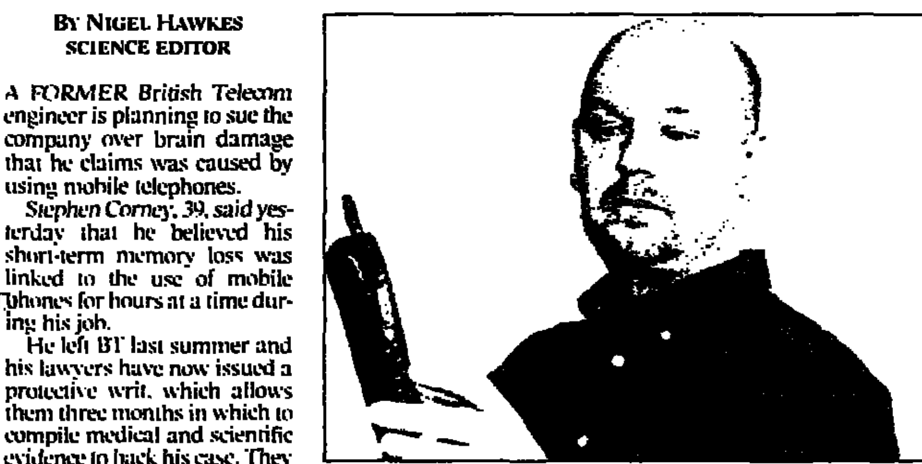
"I tried fixing my washing machine, which took ten weeks to fix and should have taken half an hour — and that was working on it all day, every day.

"When I was first off work I was in a bad state and I knew *something had gone wrong in* my head. I was scared."

Mr Corney's partner Lisa Hutchings, said: "He was a very outgoing person with a good sense of humour and enjoyed life and enjoyed his job. Now he gets very frustrated because he is unable to do the simplest of tasks." Ms Hutchings said that his condition *had improved since he had left* work.

Mr Corney's lawyer, Tom Jones of Thompson's Solicitors, said: "I have every belief that Stephen has gone through something which has been caused by mobile phones."

The evidence linking mobile phones to memory loss is confusing. Dr Henry Lai, of the *University of Washington in* Seattle, found in studies on rats that short-term use could stimulate the production of the brain chemical acetylcholine, which is important for memory, but that sustained use suppresses it, causing the memory to deteriorate.



Mr Corney blames his memory loss on mobile telephones

Climber killed in Ben Nevis avalanche

By *Jason Allardyce*

NEW avalanche warnings were issued in the Scottish Highlands last *night* after an*other man died on* Ben Nevis.

The Northern Constabulary named the dead climber as Charles Connor, 23, from Bangor, Co Down, in Northern Ireland. He was a student living in Edinburgh.

His body was recovered from a gully close to the mountain summit by rescue teams from Lochaber and RAF Kinloss after an avalanche on Saturday.

His fellow climber, Katie Carr, 23, also from Edinburgh, was last night in a "seri*ous but stable condition*" after being airlifted to Belford Hospital in Fort William. She suffered head and neck injuries.

Last December *four people* were killed in an avalanche in nearby Aonach Mor.

Police said the danger of avalanches in certain areas of the Highlands yesterday was considerable. "We have had ava*lanche warnings in the region* over the last three or four days and at this time of year it is not uncommon," a police spokesman said.

The Scottish Avalanche Information Centre also said there was a risk across the Highlands.

'Toy' helicopter to seek landmines

By Simon de Bruxelles

A REMOTE-controlled helicopter small enough to fit inside the boot of a car could soon be clearing minefields without putting human lives at risk.

Equipped with highly-sensitive detecting equipment, the helicopter was developed by a British engineer and has successfully located hidden anti-personnel devices in recent trials. In a couple of weeks, the helicopter will be fitted with artificial intelligence so it will be able to carry out tasks and return to base without the need of a human operator.

Every week mines kill or maim an estimated 550 people in the Third World. The task of finding and disarming the devices has claimed the lives of many highly-trained mine clearance experts.

The Nitrohawk, which has a speed up to 156mph, is fitted with a device capable of detecting modern plastic mines, as well as cameras and a "sniffer" which tells the difference between liquids such as water and petrol. It can hover a couple of feet above a suspect device relaying live pictures back to its operator. Until now model helicopters have been notoriously difficult to fly, requiring lightning reactions from the controller to avoid disaster.

Bob Channon, 54, a researcher in the Intelligent Autonomous Systems laboratory at the University of the West of England, whose previous inventions include an injector pen used by 50 per cent of Britain's insulin-dependent diabetics, said: "There are many possible applications for the Nitrohawk, from tracing underground pipes to finding buried bodies, but clearing minefields is the one closest to my heart. Two or three of these machines could check an acre of land in ten to 15 minutes."

At £25,000 it is also cheaper than other remote-control machines, such as the Wheelbarrow, which examines suspect devices in Northern Ireland.



Oxford's Messiah is branded a fake

Authenticity of a violin renowned as one of Stradivari's finest is now in doubt, reports Dalya Alberge

THE authenticity of one of the greatest violins accredited to Antonio Stradivari has been called into question.

The instrument, known as The Messiah, is owned by the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. It has been dated to 1716, and has been seen as a flawless Stradivarius jewel.

Now Stewart Pollens, associate conservator of musical instruments at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, has suggested that the violin is inconsistent with Stradivari's other work. His findings, published in the *Journal of the Violin Society of America*, discuss design features such as the curling opening on the violin's face, which he regards as unprecedented. He points to an incorrect marking: the letters G and PG were used by Stradivari to differentiate sizes; and while The Messiah matches the PG measurement, it bears a G.

His conclusions were supported by a dating of the wood which suggests it was a spruce chopped down after Stradivari died in 1737. The test was done by Peter Klein, a dendrochronologist — a scientist specialising in wood dating — at the University of Hamburg: he gave a likely date of 1738.

Dr Klein yesterday insisted that his original results were "preliminary", based on a photograph — something he had made clear to Dr Pollens. He offered the date only "for discussion", he said. It had been impossible, he said, to see beneath the strings in the photograph; he has since visited Oxford to see the real thing.

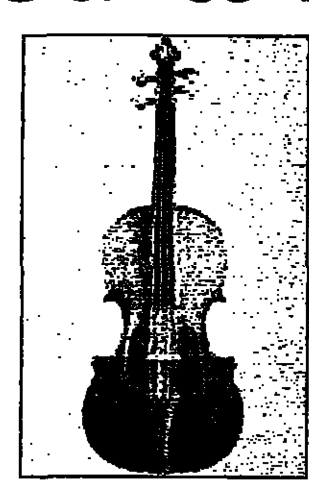
"There were fewer rings in the photograph than in reality." Until he has all the measurements, he says, "I cannot say if it is a Strad or not".

John Topham, a violin-restorer trained in dendrochronology of instruments, said Dr Klein had "arrived at an assessment before being certain about the data ... dendrochronologists do not give provisional or working dates outside the laboratory".

He believes that The Messiah's wood matches an instrument known to date from 1717: they may have come from the same tree. His findings, he said, had been verified by scientists at Sheffield University.

The Messiah got its nickname when a violinist said to the owner, who would not show it to him: "Your violin is like The Messiah. One expects him, but he never appears."

It was acquired by the Hill family who donated it in 1939 — along with a collection of the finest string instruments in the world — to the Ashmolean. Andrew Hill, a senior partner of W.E. Hill, accused Dr Pollens of having a "private agenda". "He can't see why dealers like our family were giving something like this away. Someone like Pollens dismisses such altruism."



The violin at issue, known as The Messiah

He suggested that Dr Klein had backtracked on his original theory and described Dr Pollens's conclusions as mumbo-jumbo: "if he'd looked at 300 or 400 Strads, as I have, he'd know a lot more about it".

Yesterday Dr Pollens defended his theory, noting that the G marking was not in the Hills catalogue of 1902. "It has been altered while in the possession of the Hills. It is a common thing in the violin world — the putting in of labels and the relabelling of instruments, not in a fraudulent manner but to confirm an evaluation."

He said that Dr Klein had never suggested that his data were preliminary: "He wrote to me saying he was sure of his analysis." The rings which Dr Klein could not see under the strings in the photograph, he said, would only add a year or so to the date. That The Messiah matched another instrument proved nothing.

Timothy Wilson, of the Ashmolean, said: "The Ashmolean is only interested in the pursuit of the truth and we look forward to seeing evidence laid out in a scientific way."

A British dealer, Peter Biddulph, dismissed any doubts about The Messiah, describing it as an extraordinary instrument, in such superlative condition that "it's like new".

☐ An organisation is being set up to counter the international trade in stolen musical instruments, in response to the vast increase in their theft. It is the idea of the violin-restorer George Eittinger, who has been establishing a database, to go on the Internet, with photographs and detailed technical data, that specialists will be able to tap into if confronted with a suspect instrument.



LINKS

www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
members.xoom.com/homepages/v/l/a/violinists.html Violinists' home page

Two papillon toys looking their best for the Crufts judges at the Birmingham NEC yesterday. Graycaz Oliviar, left, is the aunt of Geanzger Sofine Graycaz. They are owned by Caroline Lee-Farnsworth of Manchester. Results, page 22

Demo threatens Channel traffic

CHANNEL lorry drivers and tourists face delays today as Calais port workers demonstrate over the threatened ending of duty free goods. The protesters plan to block ferries and Eurotunnel trains.

Police in Kent said that a section of the M20 could be shut to accommodate lorries queueing for crossings. Inspector Peter Savage said that Operation Stack was ready to be put into action, with the motorway remaining closed for as long as the queues lasted. He said: "We hope the dispute does not last all day, but we have to be prepared to cope with disruption for as long as it takes."

A spokesman for P & O StenaLine said he understood that the action against ferries was due to begin at 9am French time (8am in Britain) and last for six hours. Their service would be suspended from 6.15am, with the next ferry leaving Dover about 12.15pm. He said: "As usual, it is the British passenger who has to bear the brunt of a protest like this."

A Eurotunnel spokeswoman said that it had been told the Calais port workers would block its entrance and exit in France from 11am to 2pm British time. She said: "We have spent time over the past couple of days contacting those who have tickets to inform them of the industrial action.

"We are advising passengers they should not travel unless they have to and we are advising day-trippers that it may not be worth going at all."

The Freight Transport Association said the dispute — on the busiest day of the week for Channel hauliers — could cost industry about £1 million. A spokesman said: "Lorries cannot travel on French roads during the weekend, so Mondays are especially busy. Truck schedules are always very tight, so this is going to have knock-on effects for the whole week."

He said that truck drivers were again being caught up in a dispute that had nothing to do with them. "If you were to speak to drivers at Dover tomorrow, you would find they are getting increasingly angry at this." *(PA News)*

Park tourists face £1 tax

By Paul Wilkinson, North East Correspondent

VISITORS to the North York Moors National Park could soon be asked to pay a levy to fund conservation projects in the area. They might find themselves paying between 50p and £1 on top of their bills in cafés, pubs and hotels, or for attendance at specific events.

A report to go before members of the park authority tomorrow says an entrance fee was neither acceptable nor practical but what it calls "visitor payback" provided "a more direct way of tapping tourist spending power which can be linked with specific management needs. It also has the advantage of allowing the visitor to relate personally to the project they are contributing towards."

Officials, whose annual budget of £3 million for the 554 sq mile park is already tightly stretched, believe people will be happy to pay a voluntary 50p to £1 as a recognition of the work done to protect the scenery and surroundings they come to enjoy.

This year the 15,000 people taking part in organised events such as car rallies, mountain biking or orienteering competitions in the park would be asked to contribute, but the scheme could encompass all the eight million who visit the moors each year.

David Brewster, head of park services said: "In no way will this ever replace our usual funding from Government, local authorities and other grants, but it could make all the difference on some key projects. It would be entirely voluntary and people would be able to opt out."

Fight fans hit out at ringside 'mugging'

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK


The big fight attracted many Hollywood celebrities, including Michael Douglas and Jack Nicholson

BRITISH fans who spent their savings to travel to the big fight in New York left the arena punch-drunk after what they described as a mugging at Madison Square Garden. Many identified the suspect as Don King.

The hundreds of armed police sent to keep order had failed to protect Lennox Lewis's forlorn supporters from the injustice perpetrated upon them, and afterwards they streamed quietly into local bars to drown their sorrows.

"From the airport, a taxi driver told us no one got turned over any more in New York because the crime has gone down," said Jim Garner of Nuneaton. "I'll tell you what: a guy was turned over in that boxing ring tonight."

Dozens of the fans who made the trip without tickets paid $25 (£15) to watch the fight on television in a bar rather than risk getting tricked by New York's infamous touts. But those who really felt cheated were the thousands who got inside.

Whether draped in the Union Jack or suited and booted in evening dress, Lewis loyalists from across the country and the social spectrum seemed as stunned as if they had been in the ring themselves.

"It's a complete farce," complained Samuel Philips from Birmingham. "It was daylight robbery. All the way from Birmingham to watch this. It's just a waste of money." John Harris, a Chelsea pensioner who stood out in the crowd in his red dress uniform, brought his son to watch the title fight to mark his fortieth birthday.

"It's disgusting, really," Mr Harris said. "I will go to the rematch if it's in England, but not out here. You know what is going to happen here."

"I feel totally gutted," his son Phil said, the birthday present having backfired.

With quick flashes of Cockney wit, some theorised about the state not just of boxing but of the United States, seeing the decision as a symptom of a general cultural malaise.

"That's the same judges that let Clinton off," said Dominic Jones from West London. "It's the same judges that let O.J. off. How can Americans live with themselves? I would have preferred Lennox to lose, because this feeling is worse."

Alan Isherwood of Woodford, Essex, said: "It's soured the goodwill of the Brits who had come over here — and they came over in such big numbers and spent such big money.

"They feel cheated. The effect will be not so much on boxing as on America. Even Americans are embarrassed about it. It's the monetary manipulation of the world."

As soon as they stepped out of the arena, American spectators flipped open their mobile phones to share their amazement with friends. Even among Holyfield supporters, the verdict was unanimous: "I was rooting for Holyfield and I still think that was a horrible result," said Don Ende, a New York lawyer. "It was stolen from Lennox Lewis."

One stunned American fan just stood on the pavement repeating over and over again: "Lennox Lewis is the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world; Lennox Lewis is the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world."

Fears of a football-style brawl after the big fight did not materialise, as the travelling fans dispersed into the city's nightclubs, bars and sex shops to try to salvage their weekend away from home.

At the Sporting Bar across the street from Madison Square Garden, the jubilation over what had seemed like certain victory soured immediately the draw was announced. "It's the old saying: You have to knock 'em out to win in America," said David Gibson from Yorkshire. He had watched it on the bar's television, having refused to buy tickets offered to him by touts at $1,000 each.

RICHARD POHLE

Wearing the flag: Lennox Lewis fans outside Madison Square Garden before the disappointment of the fight result



British referee is no stranger to controversy

BY JOANNA BALE

LARRY O'CONNELL, who declared the fight a draw, is Britain's second longest serving star-class referee and no stranger to controversy.

In 1992 Frank Bruno was extremely critical of him in a television commentary of the thrilling super-middleweight title fight between Henry Wharton and Fidel Castro Smith in Leeds, when Bruno agreed with Harry Carpenter that Smith was well ahead. A few minutes later, O'Connell raised Wharton's hand in victory by the narrowest margin of 118 to 117½ points.

Bruno, on the advice of his lawyers, later apologised saying he had the "highest regard" for O'Connell. But yesterday Bruno called the New York verdict "the most disgusting decision I've ever seen in the boxing ring".

In recent months, O'Connell, a former boxer turned gold engraver from Kent, has been the only judge on panels of three to back the loser in two important title fights. In the WBC welterweight battle between the American Oscar de la Hoya and the Ghanaian Ike Quartey in Newcastle last month, O'Connell raised some eyebrows by being the only judge to back Quartey.

O'Connell also backed another loser last year in Kevin Lueshing's light-middleweight win over Nicky Thurbin in Cheshunt. While O'Connell declared Thurbin the victor by 117 to 112, the two other judges gave Lueshing the win with a 116-112 verdict. O'Connell, who is in his 60s, said of his verdict in New York: "I know I'll get some stick, but it's my decision to call the fight as I see it. When I score each round, I never know what the overall score is going to be." Some British boxing writers also made it a draw.

Eugenia Williams, who declared Holyfield the winner by 115 to 113, is said to have scored Lewis's most decisive round, the fifth, to the American. She said she saw Holyfield throw more punches, contrary to official statistics. In her forties, she has been judging professional fights since 1989 and is one of about a dozen women qualified to work world-championship bouts. Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, revealed last night that he had objected to Williams as a judge in concern over her experience, but the IBF assured him that she was suitable.

Stanley Christodolou, the South African who awarded the fight to Lewis by 116-113 verdict, is widely respected, says Don Majeski, a boxing historian. He helped to integrate boxing under the apartheid regime and has just retired as executive director of the South African Boxing Board. He has been the top-rated WBA judge for 15 years. In his 50s, he judged his first world fight in 1974 in Johannesburg.

Keeping count of all the rules

BY DEVLIN BARRETT

THE scoring rules that governed the Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield draw appear deceptively simple but are prone to wide interpretation.

Because Saturday night's prize was three championship belts, the judge selection was straightforward: one official from each of the boxing organisations.

Technically, a boxing judge should be little more than a bean-counter, tallying up the clean blows landed by each fighter in each round to decide the winner of that round, and then adding up the number of won rounds to determine the overall winner.

A landed blow is defined as one struck with the front of the glove that hits the opponent's target areas: above the waist and the front of the face and chest.

A blow struck with the outside of the glove or a heavy slap, no matter how hard, does not count. Neither does a solid punch to the back or the back of the head.

The most interpretive element of judging is deciding if a blow connected when the target fighter is leaning away or ducking. In most fights, there are at least a hundred such swipes, and it is up to the judges to work out which ones inflicted damage and which ones were near-misses. At the end of each round, the judges award ten points to the person who landed more solid punches, and nine points to his opponent.

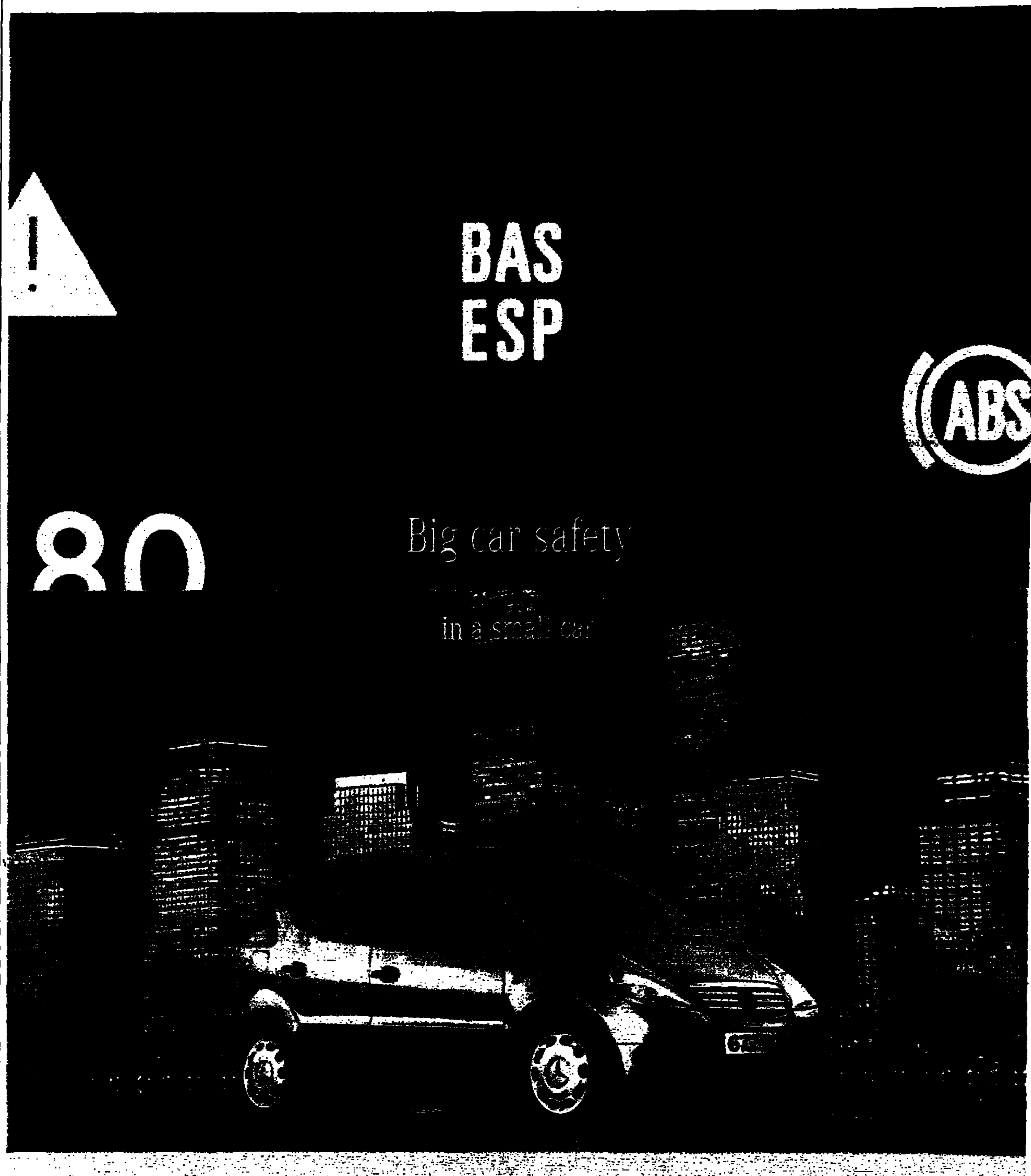
But a boxer who knocks an opponent to the mat is given a two-point edge for that round, with ten points going to the winner and eight to the man taken down.

The scorecards are filled out at the end of each round and handed to the referee at the end of the fight.

This round-by-round tally is the most common source of disagreement between official scorers and fight fans, because a fighter who batters his enemy for a full round but does not put him on the floor is awarded the same point gain as a fighter who does very little damage but makes slightly more fist-to-body contact within a round.

But by all standard measures, Holyfield was massively outgunned Saturday night in New York. A computer count of the punches landed showed Lewis more than doubled the American's blows.

While such electronic checks are notoriously inaccurate, such a wide margin only enforced the opinion of nearly all observers that Lewis won decisively, despite the scorecard.



Prince's homage to fallen Paras

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN GOOSE GREEN, EAST FALKLAND


The Prince of Wales pausing after laying a wreath yesterday at the memorial to the 20 members of The Parachute Regiment who died in the battle for Goose Green

ON A low hilltop above Goose Green, the constant wind ruffles the bright silk petals on the wreathes of artificial flowers that have lain here since last May. They are a startling spot of colour in a landscape of dull peaty brown and pale undernourished grass.

Below the flowers, the red and green iron roofs of the hamlet wink in the sporadic sunshine. Above them, a memorial topped by a simple iron cross lists the names of 20 members of The Parachute Regiment, headed by Lieutenant-Colonel H Jones, VC, who fell in one of the bloodiest hand-to-hand battles of the Falklands conflict.

Every year on May 28, the anniversary of the end of their month's incarceration in the increasing squalor of their own community centre at the hands of occupying Argentines, the 30 villagers gather at the memorial to honour their liberators. Yesterday they assembled again to see the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Paras, lay his own wreath in honour of the regiment, which only last year finally added the names of Goose Green, Wireless Ridge and Mount Longdon to its battle honours.

The Prince arrived by helicopter, regimental tie beneath his dull green parka. The wind tugged at his hair as he walked with Richard Ralph, Governor of the Falklands, to the little plot surrounded by a picket fence. As he laid his wreath he stood motionless for a minute, clenching his fists by his side and looking moved by the moment.

There should have been a bugler, but last-minute programme alterations to keep pace with the ever-changing South Atlantic weather had left him behind at Fitzroy on the other side of East Falkland.

A small detachment of Paras in their red berets, most of them now serving in the Falklands garrison, stood to attention by the memorial. They were led by Major Geoffrey Weighell, 42, who as a young lieutenant had commanded an attacking platoon round the western edge of the Goose Green isthmus.

"This is the first time I have been back in 17 years, and my feelings are very mixed; I have been trying to remember who was where while the fighting was going on," Major Weighell said. "This is a beautiful spot today, but it was very different then. There was a lot of lead flying around; one of my soldiers was killed and several were wounded.

"It was my first battle. It was a daunting time, but the plan was a good one. It was still frightening, bloody and occasionally nauseating. We knew nothing for some time about the death of Colonel Jones; we were all too busy with our own little battles."

> 'This is a beautiful spot today, but there was a lot of lead flying around then'

Falklands weather dispirited the invader and delayed his defeat. It attacked the Prince too yesterday, temporarily grounding the helicopter that should have taken him on a tour of memorials and forcing him to cancel a planned visit and another wreath-laying at the official British War Cemetery at San Carlos, where 15 men, including Colonel Jones, lie buried in a neat plot surrounded by a low wall reminiscent of a well-tended sheep pen.

In 1982 troops had to walk, except when they attacked entrenched Argentine machine-gun positions on motorcycles.

Outnumbered by more than two to one, low on ammunition, lacking adequate fire support, fighting over open ground in daylight against prepared positions, the Paras still won the day. The Argentinians lost 100 dead. In a gulley near the hamlet, a simple stone marks the spot where Colonel Jones died storming a machinegun nest, an act which brought him a posthumous VC.

Life at Goose Green has superficially changed since the war. Villagers surf the Internet and watch BBC World and CNN on their televisions. But some things remain constant: the Prince watched a sheepdog demonstration, and looked inside what is said to be the largest sheep-sheering shed in the world. With 75,000 sheep and a world wool price at rock bottom, the community is not prosperous, unlike Stanley's new barons of licensed fishing who can be seen ride in brand-new Range-Rovers and Shoguns. Addressing villagers over lunch in the corrugated-iron community centre, still used as a social club, a clearly relaxed Prince sympathised with their struggle against falling wool prices but consoled them with the news that farming in Britain was going through an equally rough time.

But he had a clear admiration for the islands he was visiting for the first time. "I think you have something quite remarkable here. You have a very precious environment, and so many of you realise just what a special part of the world this is."

The Prince, the most senior member of the Royal Family to visit the Falklands, was always assured of a warm welcome, but he has been doubly well received as a result of his unexpectedly direct reference to the islands' right to self-determination in a speech in Buenos Aires last Tuesday. Hundreds of people cheered him as he arrived in Stanley on Saturday evening to lay his first wreath, at the war memorial in the town's main street, with its inscription: "In memory of those who liberated us".

At a noisy reception with 400 islanders in Stanley Town Hall he was left in no doubt over how his speech had been received by those the Argentinians describe disparagingly as "kelpers". Eileen Vidal, 74, who won the British Empire Medal for keeping the local radio service going during the occupation, said: "I told him we were so proud and happy about his speech, and that he was the hero of all the people here." The Prince laughed and admitted he appears to have upset a few people.

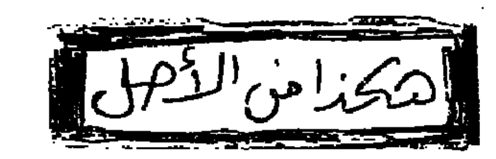
"We were well pleased with what he said. I have never heard applause like that for his arrival, even when Mrs Thatcher came," Mrs Vidal said.

> 'We were well pleased with what he said. I have never heard applause like that'

Lewis Clifton, a member of the island's legislative council and regarded as a moderate, said that the islanders would have been disappointed if the Prince had not said what he did. "There is talk of improving cultural links, but there is no middle way at present. There can be no giving ground until Argentina accepts the fundamental principle of our sovereignty."

But what most worries islanders at present, is a threat by Chile to withdraw regular flights between Stanley and Punta Arenas, which not only gives the population an alternative escape route to the RAF's Tristar flights to England, but brings them fresh fruits and vegetables.

The bright flowers of Goose Green recall a bold victory that is gradually slipping into a past era. Seventeen years on, and far more prosperous than at any time in their history, the kelpers still keep a wary eye on a future ringed by uncertainties.







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Law lords seek to limit split on Pinochet ruling

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE seven law lords who will decide the fate of General Augusto Pinochet are to announce the date of their ruling this week. It will come five months after the former Chilean dictator, who is now detained in a mansion in Weybridge, Surrey, was arrested after Spain requested his extradition to face charges over alleged human rights abuses.

Some of the law lords are believed to maintain that the general has immunity from prosecution, others that he does not and some that he has immunity in respect of some alleged crimes but not others.

One legal source said: "They will be divided but it is a question of how divided."

Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, the senior law lord, is known to want as clear a ruling as possible after the previous ruling by the law lords that the general did not enjoy immunity from prosecution was set aside because Lord Hoffmann, part of a 3-2 majority, failed to disclose his links with Amnesty International.

The new hearing, which began in January ran to 12 working days and included arguments not heard by the first panel of law lords . The complexity of the arguments and the fact that two of the law lords are chairing public inquiries have added to the delay. The ruling will come within a day or two either side of the general's next bail hearing next Monday.

The court battle has run up huge legal bills and security costs. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has given Surrey police £200,000 to help to pay for protecting the general. Spain has also offered to pay the protection bill, which is believed to be more than £35,000 a week. If the law lords decide that he must stand trial, the security operation could last another year as avenues of appeal are explored.

More than 100 lawyers have been involved in the case. The general is paying his own legal fees and about £350,000 has been given to his firm of solicitors, Kingsley Napley, by Chile's Pinochet Foundation. Some of Chile's wealthiest businessmen have pledged their backing.

The Crown Prosecution Service, which brought the appeal to the House of Lords after the High Court ruled that the general had immunity from prosecution, has used five barristers, including a QC, and the Treasury Solicitor has engaged two counsel.

The general's own team costs an estimated £12,000 for each day in court, and the cost of the new law lords' hearing is believed to be £500,000.

General disorder gives the rich a beating

By Christine Middap

IT IS a mild Saturday afternoon in Surrey as the rich and famous enjoy a few quiet hours in their mansions. Then the drumming begins.

Hesitantly at first, a single drum beats out a lonely rhythm. But soon the clatter of a wilder beating fills the heavily wooded pocket of the Wentworth Estate, echoing over the security gates and through the walls of the country retreats.

Then the chanting starts: "Now is the time to pay for your crime" and "There's only one decision, extradition".

This is the scene every Saturday afternoon for the unfortunate neighbours of General Augusto Pinochet. The only thing that changes, locals say, is the volume. "It goes from unbearable to barely tolerable," one neighbour said.

Some just abandon their homes between 2pm and 5pm when the protesters, who vary in number from about 25 to 50, set up on the busy London Road about 100 yards from the general's rented property. They cannot see the house from their protest point. A heavy police presence, and the estate's strict trespass laws, prevent their getting closer.

"We know he hears us, the police tell us so," said Sergio Lagoh, a Chilean-born Londoner who spent three years in a concentration camp in Chile. The protesters are determined to keep reminding the general of his "crimes" but they are mindful of the disturbance. When the family in the closest house, about 20 yards away, wanted to celebrate their child's first birthday they asked the protesters to quieten down. "So we were a little quieter and then we sang *Happy Birthday*," Mr Lagoh said.

The film-maker Bryan Forbes and his actress wife Nanette Newman live near the general. "It's the drums, the drums," Mr Forbes has said. "It's a pain but there's nothing we can do."

The protesters have pledged to stay as long as the general, and some estimates say that the extradition process could take years. His next bail hearing is next Monday, when there will be a flurry of activity as helicopters and scores of police escort him.

There are 600 houses on the 1,750-acre estate near Virginia Water, and prices reach about £5 million. Chile is paying for the general's accommodation, thought to be about £10,000 a month. An estate agent said the problems had been no impact on property prices: "Nothing affects prices in this area."

SUZANNE HUBBARD

On the beaten track: Pinochet protesters on the Wentworth Estate's London Road, 100 yards from the general's home

Drive to make JPs blue collar, not blue rinse

By Frances Gibb

AN ADVERTISING campaign to recruit more working class people as magistrates and to rid the occupation of its blue-rinse image is launched today.

Although there are no figures for the jobs of the 30,000 magistrates in England and Wales, few are believed to come from manual jobs, where it is has always been harder to get time off for the work.

The month-long campaign by the Lord Chancellor's Department, costing £420,000, will use posters and press advertisements depicting people in a variety of jobs bearing the label "magistrate". A spokesman from the department, said: "The Lord Chancellor is keen that the bench should be balanced in terms of gender, ethnic origin, where people live, occupation and age."

A second objective is to reduce the excessive workload in some areas but the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has abandoned an earlier aim of seeking more Labour-voting JPs. Instead, he wants to see a broader social mix and to open the magistracy to as many people as possible. He has already appointed the first six blind magistrates.

Anne Fuller, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said: "It is vital that members of the general public realise that magistrates are ordinary people."

The campaign coincides with an initiative to make the magistracy more professional. From the autumn, new magistrates will have their performance appraised and be required to reach a standard of competence. The programme, run by the Judicial Studies Board, aims to change the perception of magistrates as amateurs. It has already begun in some areas. When magistrates first sit, their skills are appraised by experienced colleagues.

Details of how to apply to be a JP are available on 0845 606 1666.

Poster seeking new breed of magistrate

هكذا من الأصل

Art owners may sell to avoid admitting public

The Chancellor's attempt to make access to treasures easier could backfire, reports Valerie Elliott

THOUSANDS of national treasures could be sold abroad because of new Treasury rules forcing owners to allow the public unfettered viewing rights.

Many of those who receive tax breaks on inherited property which is of national importance claim there will be a rush to sell, after an instruction from the Inland Revenue that in future the public should be able to view the property — houses, land, works of art or furniture — without an appointment.

The Chancellor insisted on greater rights of access as part of last year's Finance Act but its implications are only now beginning to emerge. The Inland Revenue intends to compile a brochure listing the treasures exempted from tax and to provide information on how the public can view the property. But many owners fear they could be put at risk from burglars.

The Inland Revenue has written to hundreds of people covered by the "conditional exemption" of taxes scheme and asked them to detail their plans to show visitors their property without appointment. A letter from Mike Downs, an official in the capital taxes office in Nottingham, says that if owners fail to do so, the Inland Revenue will offer its own.

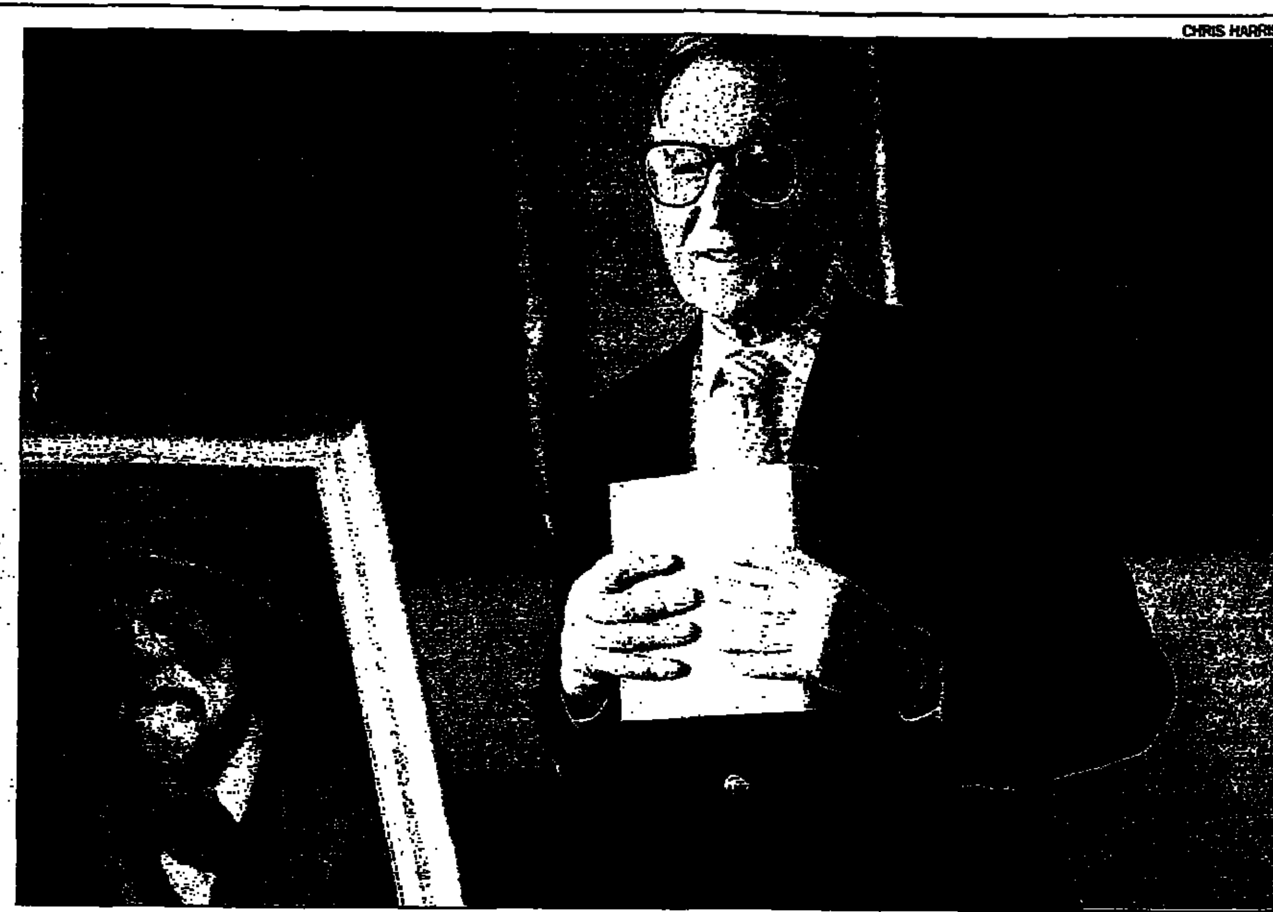
Two weeks ago a National Audit Office report said that some owners were deliberately making it hard for the public to see works covered by the scheme.

Lord Bridges, the grandson of the poet Robert Bridges, is incensed by the change. He owns, with his brothers and sisters, a collection of the poet's books valued at up to £50,000. He is worried about security and is against his name and address appearing in any public register. He said: "We have no difficulty over scholars wishing to study the text but we cannot just allow anyone in at any time and we must make checks." Access is usually granted within 36 hours.

Lord Bridges, a crossbencher, is to raise the matter in the Lords and said that if the Government pressed ahead he would try to raise the cash to buy himself out.

The Earl of Leicester, president of the Historic Houses Association and owner of the 25,000-acre Holkham Hall estate in Norfolk, would also be affected by the plan. His mansion is open to the public for 90 days a year. But he has many exempted treasures in his private wing, including Canaletto's *The Bridge over the Rialto*. He said it would be difficult to move these items and he was resigned to "devising a system where the public walk through our private rooms".

He added: "For many people it will be impossible to comply with these rules and they would rather pay the tax and sell the items. Many will eventually flood the sales rooms."



CHRIS HARRIS

Lord Bridges with a Robert Bridges book; he fears that greater public access to the poet's collection will tempt thieves

'Jigsaw puzzle' reveals horrors of war

By Peter Gleeson

AN ANTI-WAR oil painting cut into pieces and smuggled out of Nazi Germany is being painstakingly reassembled.

The New Walk Museum in Leicester has taken the unusual step of bringing the painting out of conservation for a week of public display in an attempt to flush out the missing pieces.

The giant triptych painting, entitled *Thou Shalt not Kill* and originally measuring 8ft x 24 ft, questioned the slaughter of the First World War and raised concerns about Adolf Hitler's increasingly belligerent attitude to Germany's neighbours.

The Munich artist Johannes Matthaeus Koelz spent seven years on his masterpiece. Fearing that it would be lost for ever, he asked a friend to cut the painting into scores of pieces as he fled Germany in 1937, to avoid arrest for pacifist propaganda.

The pieces were handed to trusted friends and relatives for safe keeping. After years of searching, mostly by Koelz's daughter Ava Farrington, some of the pieces have re-emerged.

A large percentage of the missing painting is believed to be still in Germany, although several pieces have turned up in Britain and the United States. Museum officials say some pieces may be in Australia.

Koelz made a daring escape from Munich, fleeing with his family across mountainous border country into Austria and then Prague, on a journey which brought him to England in April, 1939.

The German art specialist at the Tate Gallery, London, Sean Rainbird, said: "The attempted reconstruction of this dismembered triptych is a fascinating project. It casts light upon a period of great political upheaval in Germany, which affected the lives and livelihoods of many artists. Great anti-war statements such as Otto Dix's *The Trench* 1923, now lost, are well known. Koelz's previously unknown triptych, painted a decade later, was conceived during a period of fanatical nationalism and increasing intolerance."

Adrienne Avery-Gray, the New Walk Museum's Keeper of Fine Art, said: "Inquiries from the public have been phenomenal. This has caught everyone's imagination and people naturally want to see the painting for themselves.

"This is quite an unusual step for us to take, putting a painting on display before conservation work has been completed. But we thought we owed it to the public to show it now in its original condition rather than wait for the work to be done."

The Institute of Art and Law, based at Leicester, has helped by including details on its website. The painting will be shown from March 30 to April 6.



LINKS

www.pipemedia.net/ial/index.htm The Institute of Art and Law
www.leicestermercury.co.uk/lcc/tourism/attractions/newwalkmuseum.html New Walk Museum, Leicester



Johannes Koelz's triptych was cut into pieces so it could be smuggled out of Nazi Germany





Sections of the anti-war painting being restored at Leicester Museum

Tory activists demand secret votes on MPs

Party leaders fear feuding if reselection by ballot goes ahead, reports James Landale

WILLIAM HAGUE is heading for a rift with local Tory chiefs after they overwhelmingly backed radical plans to force MPs to seek reselection by ballot.

Constituency chairmen yesterday voted in favour of forcing all sitting MPs to face a ballot of local members.

MPs gave a warning that the changes would provoke the sort of internal feuding that plagued Labour's local parties *in the early 1980s*, when compulsory reselection was imposed by the hard Left.

Supporters of the changes say that the new rule would help local parties to get rid of unpopular and sleaze-tainted MPs. They believe that it is a natural extension of other changes that Mr Hague has introduced to make the party more democratic.

But MPs fear that the change will allow vocal minorities unfairly to oust sitting members. Such a change, they say, would make it easier for *Eurosceptic activists to mount* challenges against pro-European MPs such as Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, *Ian Taylor and David Curry*. Most Tory MPs are reselected by a show of hands. Ballots are rare, and held only if requested by the chairman or a third of the executive committee.

The amendment to the party's new constitution was moved by Lady Bethell, a Tory Euro candidate and chairman of the Buckinghamshire Conservative Association. Tory chairmen and other senior party figures on the National Convention in Reading yesterday backed the move by 141 votes *to 90, and it will be considered* by the full constitutional college of the party — comprising constituency chairmen, MPs and MEPs — this summer. One supporter of the amendment said: "The party's grassroots made its views very clear today. The leadership have to accept this. It would not play very well if they ignore the wishes of the voluntary party."

Another said: "MPs with good records have absolutely nothing to fear ... but MPs should not take advantage of the good nature of volunteers who devote years of work to *supporting them*."

One senior Tory MP said: "MPs are scared witless. They know this is an attempt by the local parties get the sort of control which Labour parties have. They are trying to get back at us because many blame us for losing the election."

Mr Hague's spokesman said that the Tory leader did not have a formal view on the matter, but the leadership is understood to be more sympathetic to the view of MPs.

The 800-strong constitution*al convention is dominated by* constituency chiefs, who could easily outvote the 200 or so MPs, MEPs and peers.

PAUL HERMANN



A performer with the Streets Ahead festival, which has been denied lottery funding

Arts festival threatens to sue lottery

By Mark Henderson

THE Millennium Commission is facing a legal challenge over its refusal to give a £300,000 National Lottery grant to a Manchester arts festival.

Organisers of the city's Streets Ahead festival are threatening to take the commission to judicial review after it turned down their bid for *funding* under the £100 million Millennium Festival sheme, details of which were announced last month.

Solicitors' letters have been sent to the commission contesting its decision, and the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA), which made the bid, is considering whether to issue a writ. There is no appeals procedure, short of the courts, for applicants refused funding.

Any challenge is likely to have serious implications for the 26 projects in the North West *that were awarded* a total of almost £2 million. AGMA would have to prove that the process for making the grants broke rules, which could mean a review of all the awards in the region and a substantial delay.

The festival, which has been running annually since 1994, had hoped for a grant to stage a millennium extravaganza next year, including a concert in which a violin ensemble would be winched high above Manchester by crane to play. Carnivals, parades, open-air concerts and street theatre were planned across the old metropolitan county.

The event has the support of all ten councils in the region and local MPs, including Gerald Kaufman, who also chairs the Commons Culture Select Committee which oversees the millennium celebrations.

Two other local projects were awarded funding totalling £500,000, but the failure of Streets Ahead means that large towns such *as Bolton*, Bury and Stockport will be without an official millennium celebration.

John Battie, leader of Oldham council and chairman of AGMA, said the failure of the bid was a tragedy for Manchester. "We have been working for the last five years to put this on, but when we ask for the funding we don't get it," he said. "We feel as if we have just been strung along."

A Millennium Commission spokesman said: "There is no doubt that Streets Ahead was a great bid which met all our criteria, but we simply could not fund everything."

Two years on, the bell begins to toll for an accidental MP

Mark Inglefield meets the maverick member for Tatton

PAUL COUSANS



Martin Bell: "I don't think Labour ever felt I was a danger to them"

IT IS almost two years since Martin Bell agreed to stand as the anti-sleaze election candidate for Tatton. Now the battle is under way to choose the candidates who will compete for the *seat at the next election*.

This Thursday the Conservatives in the Cheshire constituency will be choosing their prospective candidate. Mr Bell's son-in-law, Peter Bracken, a former Army major, has announced that he wants to stand for Labour.

Mr Bell admits that he will be sorry to finish his short and unexpected career as a politician, and bitterly regrets telling the voters of Tatton that he would be their MP for one parliament only.

"If I even hinted at the possibility of breaking that promise, people would turn around and say, 'You're just another lying politician'," he said. "I regret having made it because I think there is a *need for an independent MP and* I am not ashamed to say I enjoy representing Tatton."

Mr Bell has clearly taken to his new job and the area. We met in his local pub, The George in Great Budworth, where he seemed at one with the locals. Behind the bar there was an advert for a book on local beers with an introduction by ... Martin Bell.

Tatton appears equally happy to have him as its MP. He is a good talking point, and to have re-elected the sleaze-mired Neil Hamilton would have looked bad. However, the former BBC war reporter is unsure whether he has made much of an impact at the House of Commons.

"I've *gone from one job that's* held low in public esteem, journalism, to another which is held even lower, politics, and in both you never really know if you're doing a good job or not," he said.

Mr Bell does not conceal his loathing of sycophantic Labour backbenchers. "I groan inwardly every time I hear the phrase, 'May I congratulate my right honorable friend'. One Cabinet minister told *me* that he cringed at some of the questions he was asked by his own side."

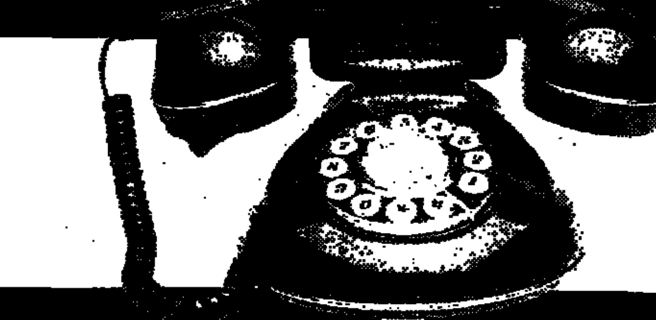
In the course of ministering to his constituents, Mr Bell has come across his old adversaries, Neil and Christine Hamilton. "I talked to him two weeks ago *about his action* in the Court of Appeal," he says. "What he has now is the equivalent of a criminal record, in terms of his future employability that is disastrous. I believe he has every right to tackle these matters in the courts and as his MP I am there to help."

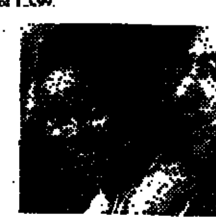
Mr Bell has been careful not to come across as "Mr Soundbite on all issues of public probity", despite many requests to do so. The revelation that he had overspent on his election expenses made him realise how careful an MP has to be.

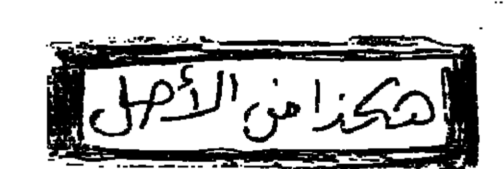
He says that the Tories would be unwise to think that Tatton is theirs for the taking, despite the fact that they held the seat with a 20,000 majority before he came along. "They have to go for someone with an impeccable record because they are going to be gone through, in a way that I was gone through, by Fleet Street."

Now 60, he is undecided about what to do when he leaves Westminster. He may make television programmes and intends writing books. The first, *The Accidental MP*, will be published before he stands down as an MP. Is it going to lift the lid on new Labour?

"No one has anything to fear," he said. "I don't think Labour ever felt I was a danger to them. I am an anomaly at Westminster as I was an anomaly at the BBC. I've always quite liked that."







Afghans agree to end 20 years of civil war

By Michael Evans, defence editor

THE two warring sides in Afghanistan reached an agreement yesterday that could bring the first signs of peace to a country suffering from civil war for two decades.

Although the breakthrough, after three days of secret talks between the ruling Taleban authorities and those representing the opposition in the north of the country, was being regarded in the West with some caution, there was genuine hope that a negotiated settlement might be on the cards.

Afghanistan has been synonymous with conflict for centuries, but ever since the invasion of the country by Soviet forces in December 1979, Afghans have had to live in an unrelenting war environment.

Yesterday, backed by the United Nations, the two sides agreed to share power, to guarantee a truce and, eventually, a durable peace. Although negotiations in the past came to nothing, the latest round dealt with many of the issues that have divided the country over the last decade, since the Soviet occupying forces withdrew.

The agreement was reached in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, after intensive negotiations between the two delegations, headed by Wakil Ahmad Muttawakil of the Taleban Islamic militia, and Mohamed Yunuous Qanooni, of the Afghan opposition. They agreed to share power in the three arms of government — the legislative, judiciary and the executive. The next round of talks will be held in about two weeks in Afghanistan, a sign of growing confidence between the two sides who have been sworn enemies.

Sartaj Aziz, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, described the agreement as a "very good development". The Foreign Office welcomed the "genuine progress" that had been achieved. Iran, which has supported the anti-Taleban forces, also welcomed the announcement. As part of the deal, both sides will each release 20 prisoners of war as soon as possible, through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr Qanouni said: "I am optimistic and hopeful that at the next round of talks we will be able to announce a permanent ceasefire." Mr Muttawakil declared: "When we agree on the details and personnel of the Government, then we can agree to have a ceasefire."

Although the key issue of how to share office in government has yet to be resolved, there appeared to be sufficient confidence that a new administration would emerge, representing all the ethnic groups.

Andrew Tesoriere, the acting head of the UN's special mission to Afghanistan, said: "These talks mark a watershed because they address not only confidence-building measures but also fundamental issues regarding the future of Afghanistan."

Despite the fresh hopes that years of bloodshed may be coming to an end, fighting was continuing in the north, and the Taleban delegation admitted there had been some preparations for further military offensives. Taleban, which had seized control of 80 per cent of the country, had been thwarted in its attempts to rule the whole of Afghanistan because of persistent opposition in the north from the alliance of anti-Taleban forces led by Ahmed Shah Masood.

As a sign of the improving political environment, the UN returned to the country for the first time for seven months. Michael Sackett, director of the World Food Programme, arrived in Kabul yesterday and discussed the security arrangements for the return of international staff this week.

About 40 UN personnel left in August after one of its officials was killed during American cruise missile strikes against camps allegedly linked to Osama bin Laden, accused by Washington of being a master terrorist.

LINKS

http://www.ummah.net/taliban/ — The Taleban homepage.
http://frankenstein.worldweb.net/afghan/ — Afghanistan online.
http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/cds/countries/afghan.html — Conflict and ethnicity in Afghanistan.
http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/af.html — CIA's profile of Afghanistan.



AMIT BHARGAVA / AP

Slum blaze kills 27 in Delhi

A woman shields her son's eyes from dense smoke as she flees a fire that engulfed a shanty town in Delhi yesterday. At least 27 people were killed and thousands made homeless. Police said five children and four women were among the bodies brought out from a smouldering mosque where a number of residents took shelter. The slum dwellers, mostly illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, protested at what they said was a delay in the arrival of fire trucks and hurled stones at some of the vehicles, damaging at least three. Angry residents also clashed with riot police helping rescuers and were beaten back with rifle-butts. (AFP)

Harare suspects complain of torture

From Michael Hartnack in Harare

THREE Americans, who claim they are Congo missionaries wrongly suspected of being mercenaries, yesterday sought access to doctors to confirm complaints they were tortured during seven days in Zimbabwean security police hands.

"The accused persons currently have wounds which are visible but as each day goes by the healing process eliminates the evidence," said Jeremy Callow, lawyer for John Dixon, Gary Blanchard and Joseph Pettyjohn, all of Indianapolis. They were detained trying to board a Swissair flight last week when metal detectors revealed a handgun in their luggage.

Prosecutors, who allege the trio were on a terrorist mission, said a search of a parked lorry uncovered 20 shotguns, assault rifles, a light machine-gun, handguns and a diagram of State House which is opposite President Mugabe's principal residence.

Bloody start for Kosovo talks

Market bombs and Serb artillery set tone for peace negotiations, **Anthony Loyd** writes from Mitrovica

AS IF in a final fling before peace talks reopen today, Kosovo suffered its worst weekend of violence since the talks began as three bomb attacks left seven dead and 58 wounded and Serb artillery laid waste to ethnic Albanian villages.

One bomb exploded in a crowded marketplace in Mitrovica, another two in Podujevo, as Hashim Thaci, head of the Kosovo Liberation Army's political directorate and prime minister-designate of the provisional government, led a five-man KLA delegation to the Paris talks.

All three bombs targeted civilians. In Mitrovica four people, including two women and a child, were killed as the market was transformed into a tangled mess of shredded limbs and pulped fruit. The 30 wounded there included an eight-year-old girl who lost both legs. An hour earlier the first bomb was detonated in Podujevo, followed 15 minutes later by a second. Twenty-eight people were injured and two died. A third, an ethnic Albanian man, was shot dead at the scene in the immediate aftermath in circumstances that still remain unclear. The victims in the two towns include Serbs and ethnic Albanians. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks and both sides were quick to blame the other.

Just west of Mitrovica, villages burned across a seven-mile front. Serb tanks, mortars and heavy artillery had pounded suspected KLA positions here throughout the morning and afternoon in the heaviest day of the past three days' fighting in the area. On



Thursday, as the Serb offensive began there, the KLA had seemed in confident mood.

"We know exactly what the Serbs are trying to do," said Naim Bardiqi, a KLA officer with the Fehmi Lladrovci Brigade. "They are attempting to drive a wedge between two of our operational zones, but we are much better equipped than we were last year to deal with them." However, by yesterday the atmosphere had changed.

Presented with a smoking vista of lost villages and advancing Serb tanks, the KLA was tense and nervous. Unable to respond to or withstand such an onslaught, they had been pushed farther back into the Cicavica mountains.

The KLA's fortunes have seldom seemed at a lower ebb. Though better armed than previously, they have again been unable to hold off a concerted Serb push. Worse still, over the past week they have angered the Americans and Europeans by their refusal to sign up to the proposed peace plan, thus taking the pressure off Slobodan Milosevic, the perennially intransigent Yugoslav President.

The year-old guerrilla army can justifiably claim that it has forced Kosovo's plight on to the world stage but its ability, militarily or politically, to exploit this has been flawed. With their luck running out and their popularity waning within Kosovo, the KLA delegation Thacimust play a cool hand in the Paris talks if they are to regain the initiative.

☐ **Talks warning:** Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has said that the resumed peace talks due to begin in Paris today must produce a quick result (Michael Evans writes).

Mr Cook, who will be flying to Paris today to act as co-chairman with Hubert Védrine, his French counterpart, at the start of the talks, said the negotiations could be wound up within a week if there was no agreement.

"We don't see any reason why this conference need be prolonged," he told GMTV's *Sunday* programme.

DARKO VOJINOVIC / AP



Marchers release doves in Belgrade yesterday to mark the renewed peace talks

Beating for British

THE owner of a bar in Skopje, capital of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said yesterday that five of his waiters had beaten up 22 British soldiers (Michael Evans writes). Sasa Kainovski said the British started the fight last week. "There were only five of us, but we beat the living hell out of them," he said in Belgrade. Ministry of Defence sources said locals also joined the fighting, some with iron bars.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Threat to 'out' French deputy

Paris: Tension will be high in the French parliament this week after Act Up Paris, a militant homosexual group, threatened to "out" a gay MP, the first action of its kind in French public life (Adam Sage writes)

Gay campaigners have seized upon the changing climate to follow their counterparts in Britain and America and press their demands, such as the right to adopt children. The young politician incurred the wrath of the group when he took part in a Catholic pro-family demonstration last month. More than 100,000 people marched through Paris to protest against government proposals to introduce legally binding contracts for unmarried couples, including homosexuals.

Mercy for Gulf killer

Abu Dhabi: A Filipino murderer, John Aquino, has been spared the death penalty after a mercy plea from the family of his Indian victim, Harbajan Singh Malhi, who live in Birmingham. The United Arab Emirates' supreme court has commuted Aquino's death sentence to a jail term of 15 years. The Philippines Ambassador said the family had approved the clemency without seeking compensation, but newspapers reported that £20,000 in blood money was to be paid. *(AFP)*

£4m Picasso vanishes

Paris: Picasso's Fr42 million (£4.2 million) *Le Buste de Femme*, right, has disappeared from a luxury yacht moored off the French Riviera (Adam Sage writes). Police said there was no sign of a break-in on the *Coral Island*, and there has been no trace of the masterpiece. The painting, which detectives believe may have been taken to Italy, was due to have gone on temporary display in New York.



Mahathir poll victory

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's ruling National Front coalition has won 31 of 48 seats in Sabah state assembly elections. The margin of victory stirred talk that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, might call snap general elections, not due until April 2000. Dr Mahathir said the result had confounded critics who claimed that his Government no longer enjoyed popular support. *(Reuters)*

'Amnesty' for gunman

Rome: Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who was jailed for life nearly 18 years ago for attempting to kill the Pope, could be freed as a "gesture of clemency" for the millennium, according to Vatican officials (Richard Owen writes). The Pope, who has already publicly forgiven his attacker, has written to President Scalfaro making clear that he has no objection to Agca's release.

Briton's killer caught

Albuquerque: Roger Dale Yeadon, who escaped from a New Mexico jail where he was serving a sentence for the 1996 killing during a carjacking of David Graham Nichols, a British major, has been recaptured in another state. Yeadon, 26, reached his home state of Alabama, 1,000 miles east of New Mexico, after his fifth escape from prison. *(AP)*

Fears of Kremlin purge leave Primakov exposed

Primakov: survival rests on winning IMF money

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

A FLOOD of Kremlin leaks suggest that President Yeltsin, angered at being overshadowed by Yevgeni Primakov, his Prime Minister, may be considering another political upheaval that Russia can ill-afford.

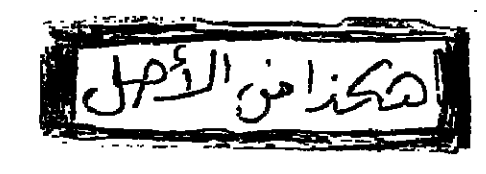
Russian newspapers all agreed at the weekend that a government shake-up was in the offing. "Primakov has Ten Days to become a Reformer" was *Segodnya's* front-page headline, referring to Mr Primakov's imminent trip to Washington. His survival was said to depend on returning with long-awaited International Monetary Fund grants. Desperate to prove that he is still a force to be reckoned with, Mr Yeltsin has undermined his Prime Minister by threatening to intervene personally if no deal is struck.

In another blow to Mr Primakov, a spokesman for Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen President, has accused him of not being "interested in the settlement of the Chechen problem". Mr Maskhadov has said he wants to deal personally with Mr Yeltsin.

Nevertheless, most observers doubt that the Prime Minister will be removed. Mr Yeltsin's recent bedside meetings with Yegor Stroyev, the head of the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, and Grigori Yavlinsky, the leader of the Yabloko party can only be interpreted as a warning to Mr Primakov. Both men were considered for the post before Mr Primakov was proposed last September. The most popular candidate for dismissal by Mr Yeltsin remains Yuri Maslyukov, a First Deputy Prime Minister and the target of corruption allegations. If Mr Yavlinsky, a reform economist, were to replace Mr Maslyukov as chief negotiator with the IMF, Russia's chances of receiving the much-needed loan could only be improved.

The removal of Mr Maslyukov would sour Mr Primakov's ties with the Communists, serving Mr Yeltsin's purpose of getting the communists out of Government. The President is eager that his legacy should be one of ridding Russia of communism.

The trouble with glasnost, page 20



Exile for 'Bonaparte' but his conqueror is captive of business

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

It was still a matter of dispute at the weekend whether Oskar Lafontaine, known as the Napoleon of the Saar because of his small stature and big ambitions, was now on Elba or Saint Helena.

For photographers, he posed with toddler son on his shoulders outside his Saarbrücken home to demonstrate that he was now withdrawing into private life.

But his anger at Gerhard Schröder is still great and his influence within the Social Democrat Party could yet make negative waves. On April 12, the Chancellor will stand for the chairmanship of the party and Herr Lafontaine has the ability to make it difficult for Herr Schröder.

Assuming, however, that Oskar really has met his Waterloo, how strong is the Chancellor? Has he won the decisive battle for control of his Government? The conflict between the two men was about social democratic economic strategy, about the kind of ideology that should accompany power.

Herr Lafontaine championed a modern Keynesianism, demand management, a boost to private consumption, more tax, more spending — and, supposedly, more jobs. Herr Schröder advocated a corporatist solution dependent on persuading big and medium-sized companies to invest more in job creation. That entailed wage restraint on the part of the unions and tax concessions for industry. There were overlaps in the policies of both men and, on this narrow base of agreement, a ramshackle tax reform was constructed. in the long term someone had to give.

One way of reading the events of the past few days is that capitalism has won. "Never in the recent history of Germany has big business been able to topple such a crucial pillar of government," said a dismayed commentator and certainly the representatives of industry have not stopped crowing. A more precise interpretation would be that the modernisers in and around the Chancellery had successfully used the displeasure of industry to outflank the Finance Minister.

Herr Lafontaine knew it and, since he has a paranoid edge, blew it up into a huge conspiracy against him. His sneer that Herr Schröder is a "cashmere Chancellor" said it all: as far as he is concerned the Chancellor has become a puppet of the capitalists and has finally deserted the Social Democratic Party.

Oskar Bonaparte is more than halfway right about Herr Schröder. The Chancellor is a captive of big business. From the beginning he has overreacted to their threats and has not set precise limits on their influence. It is in the Chancellor's nature to act as an anchor man, a mediator between competing groups, rather than as a leader.

Typically, he calls in industrialists and bankers, asks them their view of what reforms are necessary and bounces the opinions off the trade unions. But the unions, crippled by an unemployment rate of more than 11 per cent, are far weaker and quickly crumble. Only Herr Lafontaine gave them bargaining clout. The German leader is too easily swayed by articulate interest groups and by popular opinion.

If there were an intellectual core to his Government that would not matter too much, but there is not.

The winners of last week's drama are clearly the modernisers — Bodo Hombach in the Chancellery, the Labour Minister, Walter Riester, and, if the Chancellor can bring the party behind him, Herr Schröder himself.

Tomorrow the Chancellor heads for Britain, mainly on a routine pre-European summit scouting mission but also to put the finishing touches to the joint Third Way document.

The Third Way dialogue between Downing Street and the Bonn Chancellery played a small but significant role in the downfall of Herr Lafontaine. A conversation which should have been conducted by the two party leaderships became a Blair-Schröder event underlining that the Third Way is about power rather than belief.

Herr Lafontaine was suspicious of the toing and froing between London and Bonn. Now the Chancellor needs a modernising manifesto that has broad European support.

Lurch to right led Lafontaine to quit

Finance Minister says lack of collective responsibility left him isolated, Roger Boyes reports

A STRAINED and embittered Oskar Lafontaine yesterday broke his silence for the first time since resigning from the Finance Ministry and accused Gerhard Schröder's team of letting him down.

The 55-year-old German politician warned the Social Democratic Party not to swerve to the right after his departure. "The heart is not yet traded on the stock exchange. It has a home, and it beats on the left," he said.

The message was clear: the minister resigned because he felt that Herr Schröder, the Chancellor, was steering the Government too far towards the centre-right and making too many concessions to big business.

But Herr Lafontaine's explanation for his sudden and total withdrawal from politics will not satisfy the curiosity of many Germans who feel that something dramatic must have happened behind the scenes to derail such a committed politician. There were, he said, two reasons for his resignation. The first was political: "Without good teamwork you cannot work together successfully. Teamwork requires that you watch out for each other and that you stick together, especially in public," he said.

Decoded, this was Herr Lafontaine's way of criticising Herr Schröder for his lack of public support when business corporations started to criticise the Government's tax reforms. Herr Lafontaine believes that the Chancellor's advisers used the public criticism of the tax reform to trip him up.

"When the team does not play well together, it has to be rebuilt ... the new team is now in place and I wish it success in its work with Gerhard Schröder." The responsibility for the Government's mistakes, he indicated, should be shared out equally.

> 'The heart is not traded on the stock exchange. It beats on the left'

The second reason for the resignation, he said, was his need to be with his family and in particular his young son. "Ever since the assassination attempt on me (in 1990), I have been asking how much further I want to continue with this great burden for my family and private life. And now I have made a decision for my private life. I hope the party will understand."

Friends of Herr Lafontaine say he had originally planned to resign in late May soon after the expected election of Social Democrat Johannes Rau as the next German President. The infighting within the Government merely accelerated the inevitable. But something is still missing from the picture painted by Herr Lafontaine. Politics has been his life for over 30 years, he is married to a very energetic political activist and, although it had become clear that he would never be leader of Germany, he had carved out a big chunk of power at the very top of the Social Democratic establishment. But on the strength of a bit of party feuding — no better and no worse than he has experienced in the past nine years — he threw in not only a Cabinet position and the party chairmanship but also his mandate as a member of parliament.

His team in the Finance Ministry, meanwhile, is being quickly reshuffled. The architects of Herr Lafontaine's economic philosophy — Heiner Flassbeck and Claus Noe — are to leave the ministry by the end of March. Together they gave the intellectual backbone to Herr Lafontaine's attempts to politicise the economy. Hans Eichel, the incoming Finance Minister, is said to be considering bringing in Fritz Kuhn, a Green Party economist, as his chief official.

Many of the leading Green economists are more market-orientated than those advising their senior partner in Government, the Social Democrats. Herr Flassbeck had argued for lower interest rates and a new exchange-rate regime for the euro, yen and the dollar. He was widely ignored. Now, at the age of 47, Herr Flassbeck can, according to German press calculations, expect around £800,000 of pension and redundancy payments for his five months in office. He thus emerges as the main beneficiary of the power struggle.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

WERNER BAUM / DPA



Oskar Lafontaine carries his son Carl-Maurice, aged two, at his Saarbrücken home

Sleaze inquiry to name Cresson

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission sleaze saga will reach a climax tonight when Edith Cresson and other embattled Commissioners are due to be named in an official inquiry.

Mme Cresson, a former French Prime Minister, was summoned, with at least five colleagues, to the European Parliament last night to read the conclusions of the investigation which was launched under pressure from MEPs to examine individual commissioners's roles.

EU leaders are counting on the inquiry to purge the sleaze which has festered at the Commission, paralysing its authority at a key time for Union negotiations on reform.

Mme Cresson, who is in charge of edutcation, has been accused of nepotism in job appointments and is also under fire for the mismanagement of a multimillion-pound education programme. Depicting herself as a scapegoat, the commissioner has rejected calls to resign. Also under a cloud is Manuel Marin, the Spanish commissioner responsible for overseas aid.

Senior Commission sources say they expect the report to find some fault with individuals but to focus mainly on failures of management.

Ministers return to farm cash squabble

Brussels: Britain, France and other states will demand fresh cuts in farm spending today, a week after Brussels proclaimed a radical new deal to revamp the common agricultural policy (CAP) of the European Union (Charles Bremner writes).

Finance ministers will hear criticism from the EU's biggest states about a £4 billion overrun in the farm budget agreed by ministers. Also at today's session, the EU will have its first discussion on efforts to bring taxes into line since the resignation of Oskar Lafontaine. Ministers are keen for evidence that the exit of "Red Oskar" has ended the confusion in Germany's management of EU affairs nearly three months into its presidency.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French minister, are to join a chorus of seven Governments which say that, without a cut in the CAP plan, there is little chance of an accord on overall EU spending reform at the Berlin summit.

Unhappiness over the CAP reform emerged at a weekend session of foreign ministers near Wiesbaden. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said the EU was only half-way to a farm deal because the ministers had failed to trim the costs.



Rudolph: in hiding for more than a year

Fugitive blamed for clinic bombing

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA's most wanted man, Eric Rudolph, is a suspect in an abortion clinic bombing close to the forested mountains where he is believed to be hiding.

A large bomb exploded outside a clinic in Asheville, North Carolina, on Saturday, but part of the device failed to detonate and nobody was injured in the blast. President Clinton called the attack a "terrible act of senseless violence," and added: "Whether or not a terrorist's bomb achieves its deadly purpose, such cowardly criminal acts strike at the heart of the constitutional freedoms and individual liberties all Americans hold dear."

Mr Rudolph has been a fugitive since the bombing in January last year of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, in which an off-duty policeman was killed and a nurse badly injured. He has been charged in connection with that bombing and in three Atlanta attacks, including the 1996 Olympic Park bombing that killed one person.

Some 200 FBI agents have spent more than a year searching for the survival expert in the Nantahala forest, which is so dense a light aircraft that crashed there months ago has still not been found.

Ocalan avengers kill 13 in Istanbul

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TWO Kurdish groups have claimed responsibility for the fire-bombing of an Istanbul shopping complex at the weekend in which 13 people died, raising fears of more terrorist acts in retaliation for the abduction of Abdullah Ocalan.

A previously unknown organisation, calling itself the Kurdish Nationalist Revenge Brigade, and the "Falcons of Apo" said they carried out the attack during busy shopping hours on Saturday.

The National Liberation Front of Kurdistan (ERNK), an umbrella organisation that includes Mr Ocalan's Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), denied knowledge of the brigade but refused to condemn the attack. A Brussels-based spokeswoman said the bombing illustrated Kurdish anger and frustration. The Falcons of Apo — Apo is the nickname of Mr Ocalan — claimed responsibility, according to a private Turkish television station.

The PKK had indicated that it would intensify its war with Turkey after Mr Ocalan's abduction in Kenya and his continued imprisonment. The petrol bomb on Saturday was "undeniably part of that war", Mizgin Sen, of ERNK, said.

The attack, the most serious so far, was the latest in a series of incidents that appear designed to disrupt the country ahead of next month's general election. Last Wednesday a taxi driver was killed in an explosion outside an Istanbul shopping centre.

The Foreign Office will today update its advice to people travelling to Turkey. The advice now is that visitors should take "sensible precautions" and be aware of the danger of going to certain areas.

Witnesses said that in the weekend attack two men and a woman hurled petrol bombs into the Mavi Carsi department store on the Asian side of the city. A lack of fire exits and other safety measures raised the death toll. Many of the dead had rushed to the top of the six-storey building as the fire spread through the perfume and clothing departments on the ground floor.

Past attacks in city centres have been sporadic, possibly because Turkish police were successful in frustrating the ability of Kurdish groups to move down from the mountains and into urban areas. Moreover, the PKK had also been reluctant to attract publicity for terrorist actions that would complicate its search for political legitimacy in the West. However, with Mr Ocalan awaiting trial on the prison island of Imrali, some of his supporters may feel they have little to lose by staying their hand.

Angered by the blast, the Turkish press registered its fury at European tolerance of the PKK's political presence. The mass-circulation *Hurriyet* ran a banner headline declaring, "This is your doing", above a picture of the gutted complex, and alleged that bleeding hearts in Western embassies were already "forming a queue to attend the trial of the baby murderer Abdullah Ocalan".

Bulent Ecevit, the Prime Minister, issued a warning that the country was slipping into a "atmosphere of turmoil", but he was referring less to Saturday's bombing than an attempt by a group of MPs to postpone the election scheduled for April 18. The group, known as "the disgruntled", consists of deputies who have not been re-selected as candidates.

Last night the Turkish Army reported that it had killed 17 PKK fighters, including the regional commander, in the eastern province of Batman.



Bushmen hope to regain land

Southern Africa's original inhabitants, members of the San or Bushman people, walk on the dunes of the Kalahari to visit an ancestral burial site. Victims of genocide perpetrated by invading black Bantus and white settlers, the tribes are this month hoping to regain some of the arid land now set aside in Northern Cape (Sam Kiley in Johannesburg writes). The community might have ownership returned to them as part of South Africa's post-apartheid land restitution programme. Seen as the ultimate human conservationists, the San of South Africa seek to return to the freedom of a nomadic life. But their cousins in Botswana, where most of the vast Kalahari desert is denied to them, have recently been forced out of their ancestral lands on government orders.

Tuscan cathedral threatened with underground shop and car park

'Architectural jewel' is at risk from developers, **Richard Owen** writes

A ROW has broken out over plans to build a car park and supermarket under a Romanesque 13th-century cathedral in a Tuscan hill town popular with British visitors.

The soaring pink, white and green cathedral at Massa Marittima is prized by scholars and tourists because it has remained largely untouched since it was built between 1287 and 1304. According to one authority, it is one of the most beautiful and richly decorated churches in Tuscany.

Luca Sani, the left-wing mayor, said Massa Marittima only had one very small car park. "Like other Tuscan towns, we have enormous problems coping with rising numbers of visitors for the millennium," he said.

A plan approved by the town council envisages additional parking spaces and lock-up garages next to and beneath the cathedral, together with 10,000 square yards for commercial use. Local reports say a supermarket chain has put in a bid for the space, which would be created by demolishing old storerooms next to the cathedral and excavating beneath it.

Critics of the scheme say it will endanger the fabric of the great cathedral and make Massa Marittima's traffic congestion worse by attracting cars into the ancient centre without widening medieval access roads. Massa Marittima, which has Etruscan and Roman origins, is set in the classic southern Tuscan landcape of cypress trees, chestnut trees, sunflower fields and Renaissance churches, with the added attraction of hot steam geysers. It is not far from San Gimignano, where Tony Blair and his family have spent their summer holidays for the past three years.



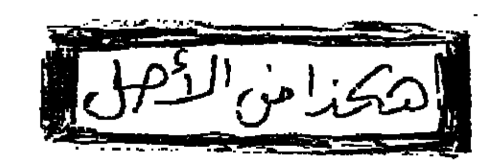
The 13th-century cathedral at Massa Marittima

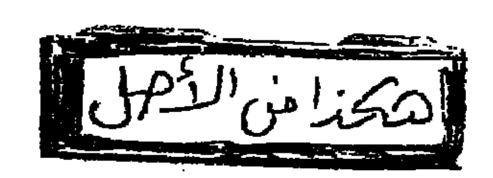
At one time situated on the Tuscan coast — hence the name — Massa Marittima is now 12 miles inland, thanks to the silting up of the coastal plain. Since medieval times, its wealth has derived from the mining of iron, lead, copper and silver. In the summer it is taken over by British, French and German visitors, some of whom have bought and converted farmhouses in the nearby Maremma countryside, famed for its olive oil, honey and cheese.

La Repubblica said the cathedral and surrounding piazza formed "one of the architectural jewels" of Italy. "The cathedral is at risk, and could collapse altogether if this plan goes ahead," the paper said.

Restoration of the cathedral has revealed its structural fragility, according to church officials. The foundations are said to be waterlogged, and the campanile, or belltower, is described as precarious. Some of the neighbouring buildings have been closed because of subsidence.

Signor Sani, however, insisted the scheme was viable, and said it would cost £1.5 million, a third of which would be met from state millennium funds.









JON WALKER/KATZ

Demonstration against police racism in London: officers in LA now undertake ground-breaking race awareness training to improve relations between police and the community

Officer, love thy neighbour

A radical training course in race relations is educating LA's police. Now it has been offered to Britain. **Sue Ellicott** reports

It is early morning at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and a group of visitors is watching 1950s' news footage of the American civil rights movement. The soundtrack features a black woman singing "Go tell it on the mountain . . . let my people go", while a white police officer bars a black youth from entering a whites-only church in Alabama.

"I don't have to love anyone I don't want to love," the officer tells the young man, who has politely asked to worship. "You go home and pray for your little niggers."

The visitors shift uneasily before the multimedia display — little wonder since they, too, are law enforcement officials, at the museum for an eight-hour "diversity awareness" course recognised as one of the most innovative in America today. As they move to the next exhibit — an interactive video montage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, which erupted after four white police officers were acquitted of beating the black motorist Rodney King — it appears that the tour is clearly achieving its goal. (One video-screen prompt is: "If you were stopped by the police do you think you would be treated fairly?")

"It reminds you why the public thinks about us in a negative way," says Gary Letona, a police dispatcher from the gritty port city of Long Beach, south of Los Angeles. "Even if I haven't done anything myself, it is the police before us that make them think that way."

While it is common for most US police recruits to receive some training in cultural awareness, the museum's Tools for Tolerance programme breaks the mould. The course is more emotional, more personal and, its designers would argue, more effective than in-house "sensitivity training" offered by police departments.

"We don't imagine for a moment that eight hours is going to change anyone for ever," says Liebe Geft, the director of the museum, which is part of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. "But we try to give something that stretches the intellect."

Since Tools for Tolerance began, the museum, a fortress-like brick building on the fringe of Beverly Hills, has fielded inquiries about the programme from Australia, Israel, Canada and Ireland. A delegation from the Bundeswehr, the German Armed Forces, will visit later this year.

After the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, which found institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police, and the government study accusing police chiefs of taking inadequate steps to improve police-community race relations and diversify their forces, the museum believes that it can help British police to improve its attitude.

Earlier this month Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the museum, sent a letter to Paul Dimond, the British Consul in Los Angeles, to "respectfully suggest that a team from England" might wish to visit. (The museum is awaiting a reply.)

Some might question why Britain should take advice from the city that earned notoriety seven years ago for the worst American race riots this century. They would be missing the point. The Museum of Tolerance, which opened in 1993, would probably never have launched Tools for Tolerance had the riots not occurred. After Los Angeles burned, tensions between police and racial groups were so bad that something had to be done.

A grant from the Californian Governor's budget now enables every new recruit at the state police academy to attend the museum's one-day cultural awareness programme; many police chiefs send all their employees, civilians and sworn-in officers alike.

The museum's cultural awareness training differs in both style and substance from that usually offered by police departments.

First, the museum provides an informal setting; discussion workshops enable participants to raise concerns about day-to-day police work that they might feel too inhibited to bring up in front of their bosses. Secondly, the museum focuses on human prejudice throughout history, using tragedies such as the Holocaust to illustrate the potential for brutality and cruelty within any society.

Participants on a recent tour were shocked to learn that members of the police were pressed by the Nazis into service as collaborators in the persecution of Jews in Germany before the Second World War. Others at the museum were moved on meeting a survivor of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, or when they sat in a mock gas chamber.

"It shows you the process of dehumanising someone and how aspects of that dehumanisation are alive in our society today," says Bob Miller, a sergeant in charge of race sensitivity training in Colton, a city with a large number of Mexican-born residents.

Racial slurs and stereotypes are focused upon and one section dealing with genocide includes film of killings in Rwanda and Bosnia. In one video installation, actors portray the accidental shooting of a woman in a diner after a group of white men make racist jokes and are drawn into trading racial epithets with a black security guard. The message is that the police should be as vigilant as anyone in questioning their cultural assumptions and should be wary of insensitive behaviour.

Joe Levy, a lieutenant with Long Beach police, says: "We take them from a point of admitting that they all do it — it's only human, after all — and lead them to thinking what to do with it." As a cultural awareness instructor, he has taken about 200 groups to the museum over a three-year period.

Police officers in Long Beach spend a day at the Museum of Tolerance as part of a three-day diversity training course that includes candid meetings between law enforcement officials and ethnic community leaders.

"Everyone learns a lot," Levy says. "Sometimes what the police take away is a simple promise to smile and wave more often. And the community leaders learn that we are human."

Despite fears that some older members of the force may be resentful of a more "consumer-friendly" style of policing, most attending the museum seem genuinely fascinated and, sometimes, deeply moved. Some described their visit as "eerie", "sobering" and even "numbing".

Patrick O'Dowd, who has worked as a community police officer in Long Beach for six years, says he will be a "better police officer and a better person" thanks to the course.

Some critics may label such an approach as typically Californian, too touchy-feely. But at least California, the most populous and the most ethnically diverse state in America, has done something practical to prevent law enforcement officials from becoming desensitised to racial differences. And in a culture more open-minded than Britain's when it comes to "personal growth", many police officers appreciate the reminders — even if the catalyst for change was a public relations crisis.

"I've seen the hardening of attitudes a lot," says one officer with 27 years' experience. "The Holocaust display reminded me how you block certain things from your mind."

The museum's diversity training programme now includes a workshop on "ethical decision-making". Police divide into focus groups of six or so to discuss the ethical dilemmas they face on the job. Top of recent lists were the use of excessive force, drink-driving by off-duty police and ambivalence about their profession's "code of silence".

Several groups were concerned about how the lowering of standards by police officers results in members of the public losing respect for law enforcement. Others worried about how difficult it was for officers to speak out against what they saw as injustices, especially those committed by senior colleagues.

"Having the group brainstorm brings it back up to the surface again," says Levy, the group's cultural awareness instructor who supervises such discussions. "Hey! You're not in denial. These are true issues that you and your colleagues face every day." When the workshops are over, the police fill in their evaluation forms and head for their vans to drive home, visibly drained.

Why three beats two

Having a third child has finally become respectable, says **Miranda Ingram**

Forget 2.4 children. Three is the new 2.4, the benchmark of the respectable, middle-class family unit, and whether to have a third child is the current debate among the chattering classes in their late thirties or early forties. Even children's literature is reflecting the new nuclear family: *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* shows the newly requisite boy, girl and baby traipsing through the mud, while *Fun with French* introduces us to Isabelle, Pierre and baby Sophie.

A couple of generations ago, once contraception became respectable, you had two children if you were middle-class and sensible, four if you were that bit richer. But never three, a much warned-against combination which led, it was said, to the dreaded "middle-child syndrome". Now all that is history.

> 'It seemed that a third child would round off the family'

Geraldine Ryan, a radio producer in her forties who is pregnant with her third child, says: "I'd had my two and returned to work. Suddenly it seemed that three would round off the family. It's seizing that last chance.

"Since women have been able to control their fertility, we have erred towards keeping numbers down. Now we are getting more flexible about using it to have more than two.

"With more infertility, and women leaving it too late to have children, you are envied these days for having kids — so why not take the opportunity to have one more?"

Molly Innes, a mother of two toddlers who is debating whether to have a third child, links the urge to hitting 40. "I always imagined that I'd have two," she says. "I am not even convinced that I want a third, but I don't want to leave it too late and then wish I had.

"When women had their first children in their twenties, there was plenty of time to think about extending the family. Nowadays we are having first children later, and they are barely out of nappies before you are facing the end of your childbearing years. It's a case of now or never."

Perhaps surprisingly, it is grandparents who greet the three-children trend with horror. Mother-of-three Tessa Evans, who recently gave birth in her early forties to a third child, says: "Ten years ago, the talk was all about the population explosion — having more than two children was irresponsible. We don't hear that any more, so you no longer have to excuse yourself to your contemporaries.

"It was my parents and their friends who thought I was mad. But they are of the generation who urged their daughters not to do what they did — to get stuck at home with kids."

The psychologist Oliver James also links the three-child syndrome to the cycles of feminism. "The women who 15 years ago were aged about 40 were in the vanguard of the fight to reject their mothers' lives," he says. "They were not going to become domesticated at any cost. Today's women of the same age are more relaxed about the traditional role of motherhood."

Finally, there is the influence of economics. When the middle classes believe they are better off they have more children. Good news, then, for Gordon Brown's pro-family Budget.

PARIS FASHION WEEK

From android chic to

FASHION DIARY

By Lisa Armstrong

WHILE Paris got on with being directional, the tireless search (which I started four weeks ago in New York) for some white summer trousers continued with, if I might say, admirable dedication.

White trousers are always a testing purchase but I now believe that I've found the solution to most trouser problems: Barbara Bui's shop, 23 Rue Etienne-Marcel, 75001. And when you find the ultimate trousers that fit perfectly, you will stick to that label for ever. Whether you want cut-offs, narrow legs, wide, pale blue, grey, brown, she's got them them all — as well as those deceptively simple tops and apron-line dresses that you can never find in Britain. I am now on a one-woman mission to get her sold in the UK.

■ THE other mobbed-out shop in Paris is Paul and Joe at 46 Rue Etienne-Marcel, the source of every great catwalk look, done with inimitable French chic. It opened only a week ago but this slim, glass-fronted shop is already filled with hands clamouring for crochet headscarves threaded with ribbon, multicoloured paisley silk halter-necks and embroidered flip skirts.

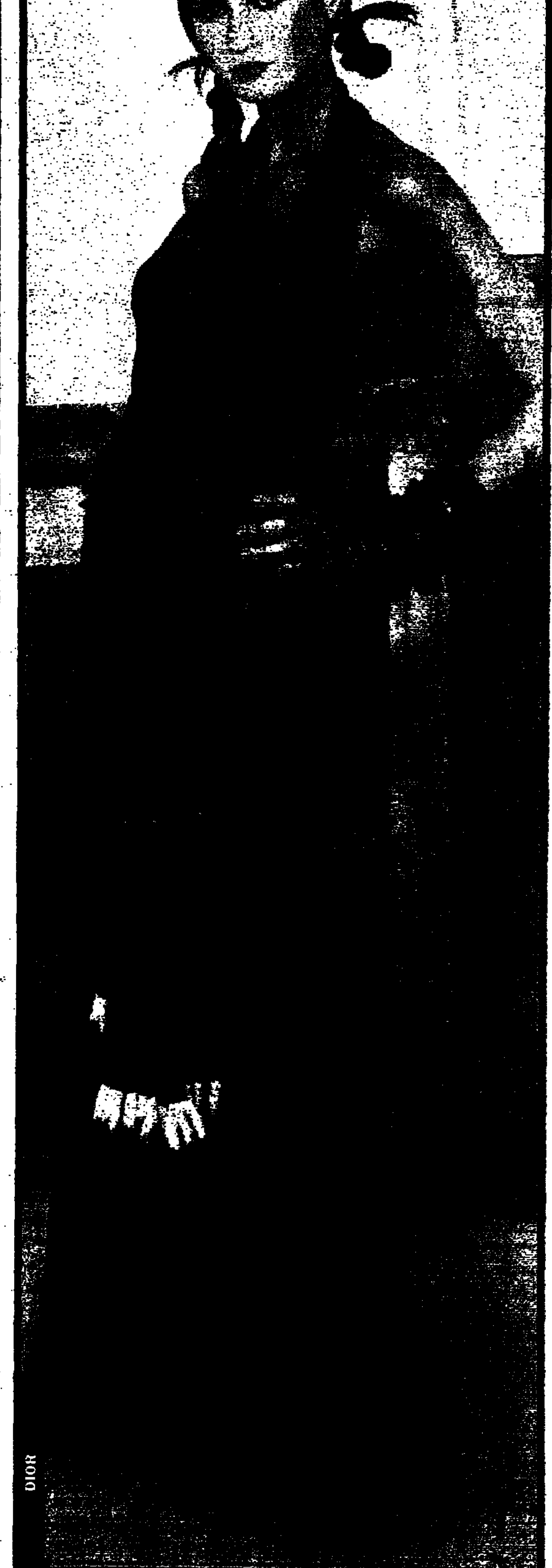
For the collector of the little beaded bag (an accessory trend that doesn't seem to be anywhere near decline) there is a wall dedicated to the smallest brown and cream chrysanthemum flower bags with a smattering of sequins. The girlie kitsch is carried through to the decor, with its hand-painted illustrations of avant-garde shoes and feathered hats.

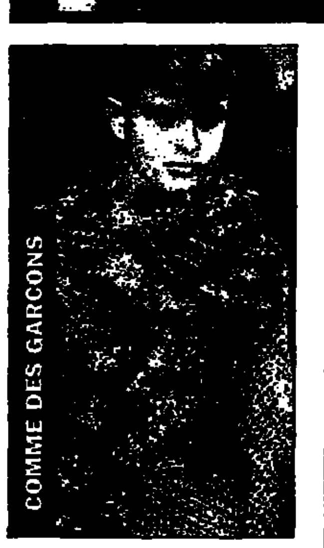
■ SOME of the New Guard designers' attempts to be maddening are almost endearing. The brains behind L'Epicerie, the hip shop that is beloved by underground stylists and editors, which was opened by two twentysomething skateboarders on the Left Bank last summer, decided to stage a happening last week to snare some attention from the more overground publications.

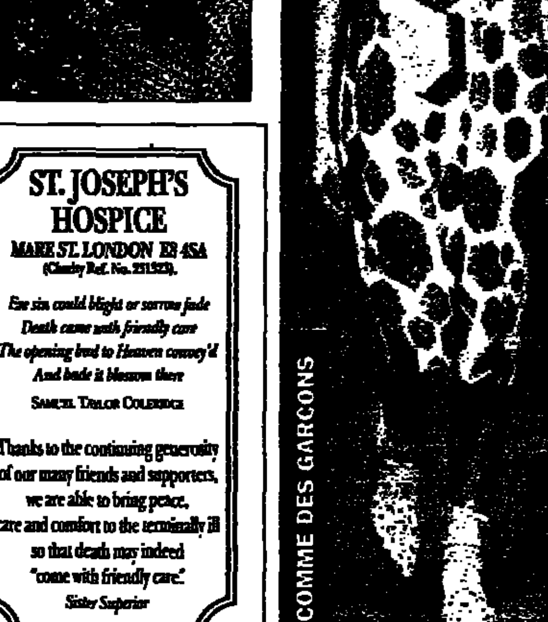
So far, so disappointingly conformist. They returned to form, however, when they decided to remove all the stock for the duration of Paris Fashion Week. Members of the fashion crowd who tracked down the store hoping to discover some of those combat prints that the shop did recently were confronted with piles of CDs.

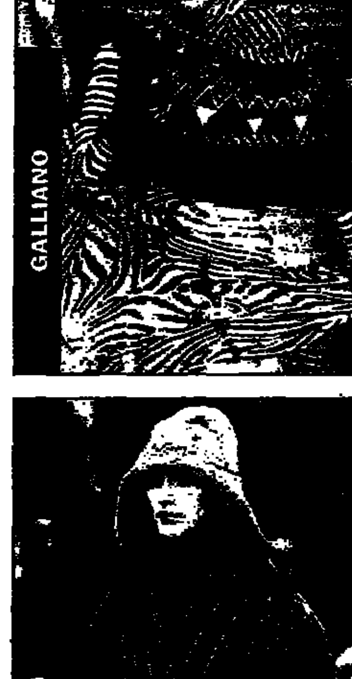
■ RUMOURS of Naomi Campbell's £40,000 levy for appearing on the catwalk have been greatly exaggerated, it would seem. The five editors who turned up for the very intimate presentation put on by the new Australian designer Martin Grand were surprised to see Naomi pull up in her limousine just as the show was about to start — and step straight on to the catwalk. She was there free of charge, apparently, because André Leon Talley, American Vogue's editor-at-large, who is a friend of both parties, had asked her. It's the supermodel's version of downshifting.


CHLOE

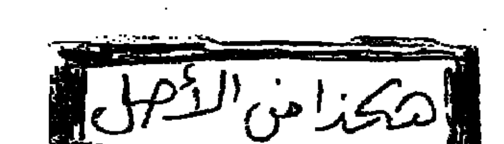

DIOR


COMME DES GARCONS


COMME DES GARCONS


GALLIANO


LOUIS VUITTON



PARIS FASHION WEEK

sharp tailoring

Blending creative spirit with the commercial world is Paris's greatest challenge. Photographs by **Simon Walker** and **Paul Rogers**

Frankly, once you've sat through one fashion show in the dark, you've sat through them all. Olivier Theyskens, the 22-year-old Belgian who designed the scary leather ballgown that Madonna wore to last year's Oscars, showed, in a blacked-out warehouse, his version of the "aggro" tailoring that is turning out to be Paris's take on the future. A year ago this might have seemed perverse — not to say inconsiderate towards photographers — but since the Dutch duo Viktor & Rolf had already pulled this stunt back in January, it was just old hat.

Last week's real shock was seeing Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons tackle disco. Watching Kawakubo work with sequins is like seeing Wim Wenders direct Richard and Judy, but the spangles, hammered into fuchsia, yellow and crazy-paving patterned shift dresses, looked gorgeous, so maybe Wim should give it a whirl.



While the Japanese gear up for the Big Party, the Belgians seem to be leading the way in pretentious presentations. Still, in their way they are a bridgehead to the future — bursting with creatively avant-garde beans and (mostly) not yet signed up by a major house.

At Dior, John Galliano's normally refined vision looked a little tarnished. When it wasn't buried beneath inelegant cable knits (an idea tried first, and more successfully, by Jean Paul Gaultier), it got lost in proportions that looked fine on a 6ft model, but probably not on the average Dior customer.

At Givenchy the concept was android chic. Alexander McQueen, one of the first of the new generation of designers to lead the way back to strong, savage tailoring, served up blockbuster shoulders, soaring heels and models who looked like albino robots pounding along a vast, reflective catwalk. That is one uncompromisingly tough silhouette, much of it emphasised with harsh, coloured stripes that bisected the suits like masking tape.

Both Galliano and McQueen came up with more beautiful and interesting work for their own collections this season. Yoking a creative spirit on to a commercial juggernaut is *the* challenge facing Paris's big houses. Concetta Lanciaux, the polyglot talent scout who brokered deals for LVMH with Michael Kors, McQueen, and Marc Jacobs, says that they have complete freedom at their respective houses. "People talk about the homogenisation of fashion, but all we're doing is giving the individual houses a synergy and an infrastructure that they wouldn't otherwise have on their own. It's the way fashion has to go to survive," she says.

Perhaps, but part of creating synergy is ensuring that what goes into the shops bears some resemblance to what appears on the catwalks. At John Galliano, 60 per cent didn't. According to Lanciaux, his catwalk vision for Dior has increased sales by 40 per cent. "But you don't see women walking in the street wearing it," she says. "Dior customers are chauffeur-driven."

At Louis Vuitton, where Marc Jacobs spends weeks agonising about the angle of a pocket, the clothes he designs account for 1 per cent of the house's annual turnover — and are available in only six of its stores worldwide. All that hoopla, all those fevered phone calls to procure tickets for what has become one of the hottest Paris shows . . . for a bunch of bags. Actually, the bags — reworked as shiny, scarlet patent duffels, wheelie suitcases (destined to be the status symbol of 2000), and outsize Kellys, all comprehensively embossed with that pricey LV monogram — and those baggy boots with skyscraper heels the colour and translucency of topaz were terrific.

The clothes were good, too: less constrained by the minimalism that marked their debut under Jacobs a year ago and more trashed-up, in keeping with the millennial party mood that dimly surfaced in Paris. Blanket ponchos were trimmed with rhinestones; soft leather skirts with tiny LV belts were dipped in pale gold. The designer has hit his stride and knows how to work the details that transform classics into must-haves: a cube-shaped tassel on a shoe here, a leather thong belt on trousers there. But it seems a bit of a con that most are merely props for the accessories. At YSL, until this season the last of the great French houses with its founder still incumbent, the drama of the week unfolded as Alber Elbaz, the 37-year-old Israeli-born designer, took over the ready-to-wear of this £22.5 million-a-year business. It wasn't great — though one felt for Elbaz at what was a portentous fashion moment. He replayed a lot of old YSL classics — the sheer shirts, the buckled shoes that Catherine Deneuve wore in *Belle de Jour*, the tuxedos and, inexplicably, the knee breeches — but didn't have the maestro's touch to make them succeed.

Lovely clothes, old-fashioned though it may seem, are what most women are looking for. And that may be the problem: directional designers like to make statements; the average woman wants some decent trousers that fit.

There are designers happy to fill this role. Stella McCartney sent out scores of sexily cut bootleg trousers (the dominant shape in Paris last week), Sherlock Holmes tweed coats and her trademark satin and sequined skirts. Ann Demeulemeester showed more of her elegant trousers, raw-edged sheepskins and butchers' apron-wrap skirts.

Cerrutti had semi-fitted shift dresses worked in felt, or wool and patent patchwork; slim, single-breasted coats, and offered the best slant on the Courrèges revival. Yohji Yamomoto's romantic but mannish tailoring made the best case so far for reviving the jacket. Back in his showroom, Theyskens cuts a sharp suit and has a way with leather that compares to McQueen. After the sporty and rustic slop of Milan, it was nice to see so-called renegades revisiting the traditional skills of tailoring.

That fashion journalists need to visit showrooms to inspect "the real collection" speaks volumes about where many French fashion houses see themselves today — firmly in the land of showbiz.

You can understand their dilemma: we have become visual-shock junkies. You can go the other way and show clothes that are so beautifully muted, so daringly wearable — leaving aside the obstacle of Hermès's price-tags — that if you were anyone other than the endlessly thought-provoking Belgian designer Martin Margiela, no one would turn up.

Hermès's luxurious theme was echoed on the soundtrack, although it may be that the biggest luxury of all is Margiela's contract, which allows him to remain anonymous.

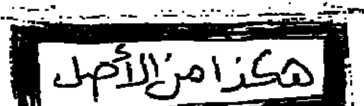
This is by no means typical of the French approach to fashion. If you want wearable clothes, visit Gap. If you want Paris — honey, go and hire a chauffeured limo first.

TRENDS Bootleg trousers; three-quarter-length single-breasted coats; slit pockets; dungaree backs; strong tailoring; futuristic and Courrèges touches. Colours: brown, rust, mustard, cream and . . . black.


DEMEULEMEESTER


LOUIS VUITTON


CHLOE





MUSIC

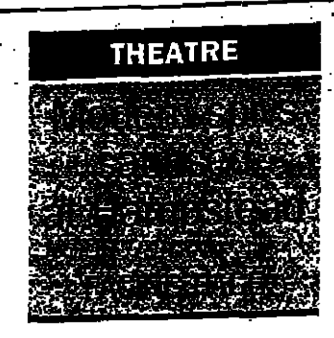
The 'fourth tenor' takes to the podium

THIS PAGE

THE TIMES

ARTS

THEATRE





VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor is pleased to see Charles I's court painter Orazio Gentileschi step out of the shadow of his daughter Artemisia

PRIVATE COLLECTION, COURTESY OF THE PYMS GALLERY, LONDON





Spot the differences: *The Finding of Moses*, the late biblical masterpiece painted in two versions in the 1630s by the artist Orazio Gentileschi. He had to conform to English (left) and — perhaps more puritanical — Spanish tastes

Father in the spotlight

In recent years Orazio Gentileschi has been condemned to live in the shadow of his daughter Artemisia. For the present intellectual climate, of course, Artemisia has all the advantages. She was one of the earliest women known and definable as a professional artist, living and working in the first half of the 17th century. She painted a famous and bloodthirsty version of *Judith Decapitating Holofernes* and several images of Judith with his head after the event, not to mention one of the most disturbed accounts of the Elders spying on Susanna. She could hardly help becoming a feminist icon.

Orazio, on the other hand, had nothing to declare but his talent. And on the rather unfair principle that one cannot elevate one family member without somehow downgrading the other, he has been neglected: Artemisia got her big show in Florence eight years ago, while it is dubious whether Orazio has ever had a major show all to himself before the one now in London at the National Gallery, before going on to Bilbao and the Prado. Even this show is not one of those enormous international blockbusters, but, at a mere nine pictures (plus a portrait of him by Van Dyck), it undoubtedly gains in depth what it may lack in breadth.

There are various reasons for its timing. Orazio had strong English connections, coming to London in 1626 as court painter to Charles I and remaining there until his death in 1639. During his time in London he painted, notably, a group of paintings on biblical themes which hung in the Queen's House at Greenwich and were in some cases apparently designed for their place there. Of these the show reunites three: *Lot and his Daughters*, now in the Museo de Bellas Artes, Bilbao; *The Finding of Moses*, long at Castle Howard and now in a private, presumably British, collection; and *Joseph and Potifer's Wife*, sold, like the others, after Charles's execution in 1649 but returned to the Royal Collection at the Restoration.

The 350th anniversary of Charles's death is only one trigger for the show. Another must have been the opportunity offered for bringing together the version of Gentileschi's late masterpiece *The Finding of Moses*, originally painted for Charles's queen, Henrietta Maria, and the even later, and some think even more masterly, version painted soon after, around 1633, for Philip IV of Spain and now residing in the Prado.

Hanging side by side on one wall, the two pictures resist easy ranking. The left-hand side of the composition varies very little between the two versions, but the right is quite different: one of the female figures pointing towards a decidedly English-looking landscape has been eliminated, and the other turns her attention away from the substituted, nondescript landscape towards the child. The kneeling figure on this side is in almost exactly the same pose, holding forward the basket with the baby, but in the Prado's version is fully dressed instead of half-naked — a change possibly dictated by the more puritanical standards of the Spanish court.

Both paintings are equally favourable examples of Gentileschi's later manner, which goes in for subtle, muted tones and tranquil, balanced compositions, eschewing the extravagant, contorted poses and unnerving changes of scale and perspective to be found in the early style, when he was strongly under the influence of his friend Caravaggio.

The show does give, in its relatively limited compass, a good idea of Gentileschi's development, from the Caravaggesque *David Slaying Goliath* of about 1606 to the measured works of three decades later which anticipate Poussin.

One thing is absolutely clear: we do not have to detract anything from Artemisia's singularity in order to value Orazio. His varied and international career, working in Rome, Genoa, Paris and finally London, enabled him to be a painter of subtle, poetic distinction, as well as a vital link between the wilder shores of Caravaggism and the ordered harmony of the great French classics. It is high time we took another look.

● *National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-747 2885) until May 23*

All the fun of the fair

CONCERT

Philharmonia/Cura
Festival Hall

He sings! He conducts! He's got Latin looks! He's the Fourth Tenor! This is perhaps how a fairground barker would advertise José Cura. In some respects, Thursday night's gala concert of operatic chunks belonged in a fairground, for not only did the strapping Argentine tenor, this great white hope, sing and conduct, he did both at the very same time.

As a visual spectacle, this took some beating. Doomed heroes galore from Verdi, Puccini and company were paraded before the Festival Hall audience, bewailing their lot, hearts breaking, facing death in recitative and aria.

But instead of supporting the voice and emotion with the odd wrenching gesture or imploring stab, Cura's hands and arms were busy beating time to the players behind him, flapping like a bird's wings, urging on the Philharmonia Orchestra strings or cuing a woodwind overlay. If it looked daft and dysfunctional to us, imagine how the Philharmonia felt, being conducted by a singing back.

Cura, to be sure, has every right to conduct. He is trained to do so; he is also a trained composer, with an oratorio, *Ecce homo*, simmering somewhere on the back burner. The singing began comparatively recently — his stage debut was in 1992 — though Cura's ringing voice, pin-up looks, leonine profile and CD releases have already whipped up a large fan following, Internet shrine and all. It took only a few notes of Don Alvaro's Act III lament from *The Force of Destiny* for some of the man's magic to work: the tone clear as a bell, colour-coded chocolate brown.

But his is still a young tenor, unfit as yet for the dizzier heights of tragic anguish. Individual words throbbed with feeling: "Piango!" he cried in "Sento avvampar nell'anima" from *Simon Boccanegra*, a hand briefly clutching his throat, shading the repeated phrase with all the rainbow's darker hues. Yet this was just a spot effect; for much of the time, the voice was mellifluous but functional, the man's energies distracted, no doubt, by the business of waving those arms.

Not that the Philharmonia seemed to need much guidance in this concert (sponsored by Rosenblatt Solicitors). The *Force of Destiny* overture made it perfectly clear we were in safe hands: their clear, burnished tone and dramatic sense was a joy throughout. For "Vesti la giubba" from *Pagliacci*, Cura the conductor took great delight in drawing out a growl from the double-basses at the end; an amusing stunt, though for aural glory nothing could match the Philharmonia's handling of the prelude to Puccini's *Il Tabarro*, soaked in the atmospherics of the Seine at night.

At the end came the cheers, the encores, and the presentation of a notably small bouquet. "For me?" Cura pantomimed. Perhaps the flowers would have multiplied had the conducting been left to another.

A promising voice, then; but a rather ridiculous evening.

GEOFF BROWN

Big band bonanza

POP

NOW that "retro" means anything up to the grunge-rock formula of the early 1990s, it takes a bold leap of the imagination to adopt a sound and style from the pre-rock'n'roll era as your musical template. But in the same way the Mavericks and BR5-49 revitalised the forgotten genres of Western swing and the country torch song, so **Brian Setzer** has reinvented big band music, sparking off an unlikely craze in America for the brass-driven sounds, dance-steps and fashions of the 1940s and 1950s.

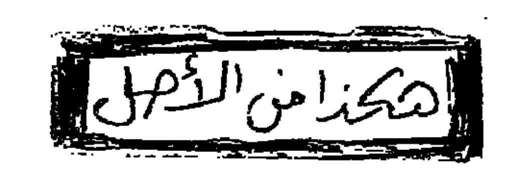
Setzer, formerly of rockabilly revivalists the Stray Cats, began his unlikely campaign as long ago as 1993 in the face of implacable media and industry indifference. Last month he was rewarded with two Grammy awards for songs on the Brian Setzer Orchestra's third album, *The Dirty Boogie*, which has now sold more than two million copies in America.

At the Shepherds Bush Empire on Friday, he radiated the self-confidence of a man who was not just vindicated, but on a roll. Wearing brothel-creeper shoes and a shiny black suit festooned with big silver stars, his blond quiff set at an improbably jaunty angle, the 38-year-old Setzer looked like a cartoon character, an effect which was reinforced by his 15-man band who were all immaculately attired in lime green dinner suits and seated in neat rows behind their rabbit-hutch music stands.

In a set paced like a runaway train, they romped through a mixture of old songs such as *Jump Jive An' Wail*, *Let The Good Times Roll* and *Since I Don't Have You* together with various of Setzer's own compositions in the same idiom, including *Switchblade 327*, *This Cat's On A Hot Tin Roof* and *The Dirty Boogie*. Despite the immense firepower of the horns, and an impressively jitterbugging rhythm section, it was Setzer's guitar playing which dominated the sound, investing the music with a contemporary rock'n'roll edge, but at the same time betraying the necessarily ersatz nature of the enterprise.

While the show was executed by Setzer with brazen panache, his virtuoso fretboard displays were frequently more about flash than feeling, especially on a version of the instrumental standard *Sleepwalk* where the poignant melody was buried beneath flurries of unnecessary notes.

DAVID SINCLAIR



Education of a foxy lady

THEATRE: The stage is in her blood but Emilia Fox took to it rather late, she tells **Michael Owen**

When Emilia Fox went to boarding school at 13, she made two discoveries. The first was that her fellows had seen her parents, Edward Fox and Joanna David, on television and considered that somewhat exceptional. "I had no idea my family did anything unusual until then," she says.

The second discovery could have been more painful, as she became aware that her parents had never married, despite maintaining a stable joint home since before her birth. "That did come as a surprise, knowing that I could be called a bastard — not that anyone ever did. But I look at them now, see the companionship they have and think how fortunate they are."

A decade or so on, Fox is turning out to be a discovery in her own right. Just 24 and three years out of Oxford, she is rattling through a range of roles on stage and TV which suggest she is one of the most compelling actresses of her generation.

She was plucked from St Catherine's College, where she was reading English, to play Georgina D'Arcy in BBC TV's *Pride and Prejudice*, then followed it with another classy serial as Mrs De Winter in *Rebecca* (a role her mother played before her).

> 'Oxford seemed like an insurance policy'

In the theatre she played Anya in Adrian Noble's *The Cherry Orchard* and last year took the title role in *Katherine Howard* at Chichester. Just when she seemed set for a career in long frocks, she broke the mould with some distinctly contemporary parts, most notably as the punkish archivist in Stephen Poliakoff's *Shooting the Past* on TV.

Now she is poised to take her first leading role on the London stage, joining Charles Dance in Donmar Warehouse's revival of C.P. Taylor's *Good*. Set in 1930s Berlin, it tells of a college professor's descent into Nazism, taking with him the girl who has become his besotted student and lover.

Slight and slender, with direct brown eyes, Fox has inherited her mother's gentleness and just occasionally reveals the gamey grin that frequently lights up her father's face. "Everyone wants to be at the Donmar or Almeida these days, don't they?" she asks rhetorically. "I feel very lucky."

Her character in *Good* begins in blissful naivety. "She does not see the evil around her. She is blinkered by the process of falling in love. But by the end she is forced to see the evil and particularly in proximity to the person she loves. It is a dark piece. I believe it is important to have a character who perversely and paradoxically stays on an uplifted level."

Good was also described by its author as a musical comedy, and Fox plays the cello on stage. Two years ago she also demonstrated her piano skills in the television film *The Temptation of Schubert*.

"I played both from the age of four; I got all the grades but never thought about music as a profession. I was enough of a show-off to play in front of a few people but it would have been too nerve-racking to go in front of an audience. I wasn't that good."

Given her family background, which includes the producer Robert Fox and the actor James Fox as uncles, a grandfather who was a celebrated agent and actresses who go back a further two generations, she decided on acting surprisingly late.

"At school, I didn't know what I wanted to do. Then I was put up for Oxford. Having seen my parents go through the ups and downs of the most precarious profession in the world, it seemed like an insurance policy."

But once at Oxford she threw herself into the acting fraternity. Then she was summoned to *Pride and Prejudice*, although she still managed a respectable 2:1 degree. "The finals were so traumatic that no first night can seem as frightening in comparison," she says.

She is now proud to be following in the family tradition. "I did have a few misgivings at first. It has been important to me to get a whole range of work under my belt to show that this is me and I'm not like my Mum and Dad. My ambition is never to be pigeonholed. I was seen as vulnerable and demure for a while but I think I have now proved that I can be strong and modern."

Fox will be seen in April in a hospital-based TV film called *Bad Blood*. She plays the scrub nurse to Alex Jennings's surgeon. "We had to go and watch open-heart surgery, to get the feel of an operating theatre. I felt really queasy. But at least I didn't pass out like a flakey girl."

Since she has been exposed to so much theatre in her early years, what shows made a lasting impression? She dutifully mentions her father in *The Philanthropist* and her mother in *The Cherry Orchard*. Then the Foxy grin settles in place. "But the one I'll never forget was at the Unicorn Theatre. *Tintin and the Black Island* — that was just the best."

● Good *opens at the Donmar (0171-369 1732) on March 23*

IVAN KYNCL



"I was seen as vulnerable and demure for a while," says a demure-looking Emilia Fox, "but I can be strong and modern"

A powerful way to celebrate

Nottingham Playhouse celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. In the winter of 1948-49 it played to its first audience in a converted cinema on Goldsmith Street; 15 years later the company moved into the friendly glass and brick building in Wellington Circus, with its almost circular auditorium designed by Peter Moro.

At the time of the move the artistic director was John Neville, actor as well as director. He last acted on the Nottingham boards 30 years ago, before he departed for Canada. Now Martin Duncan, the present incumbent, has lured him back for three performances only of Beckett's duologue for man and tape-recorder, **Krapp's Last Tape.**

Neville, now 73, has hinted that this may be his last stage appearance. The play is also the last that Duncan directs here in his four-year stint. As well as overseeing a revival of the Playhouse's fortunes, Duncan has extended its reputation abroad with a succession of foreign tours, the last of these being **Endgame**, the other half of his Beckett double bill, which goes to Weimar to take part in a theatre festival in this year's European City of Culture.

It is a production that can only reinforce Nottingham's international reputation. On Wolfgang Göbbel's fiercely black and white set, James Bolam's Hamm sits hunched upon his throne like a monstrous Grandma Buggins. Compensating for a lightness of voice by intoning his words, the poetic and the ferocious — and they are sometimes one and the same — he creates a grimly fascinating tyrant, bossing but dependent upon Alistair McGowan's angular Clov. Beckett's plays oblige his actors to become clowns and McGowan's morose agility, the hangdog posture with carrotty hair flopping, spreadeagled in a doorway three times his height, vividly conveys the (just) comic bleakness of absurdly total desolation.

Desolation famously marks the life of Krapp, listening on his 69th birthday to tapes he made half a lifetime before. Neville, with the wild hair and red nose of an unreformable toper, trots round his ancient tape-recorder with a pedant's hobble: just a foolish old man. But as the tape winds forward and memories of lost love assail him, his aghast face shows him wrenched back to a terrible sobriety. His head sinks on to the table, he rallies and stares at us as darkness closes in upon him. He leaves us with a powerful image to celebrate a multiple anniversary.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Cool under pressure

Just to think of Simon Block makes me nervous. His people bang onstage with their palms sweating and their hearts racing and, many of them, their egos bent on making others feel even more edgy. Only David Mamet, American author of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, has a better claim than our all-British Block to be called the bard of modern stress or chronicler of pressure-cooker living.

Another of his idiosyncrasies is to choose offbeat situations. His *Not a Game for Boys* involved a war for dominance among cabbies playing in a ping-pong league. His *Chimps* was about salesmen who, when not embattled with each other, were busy forcing silicone-based water-repellent on harried householders. No great surprise, then, to find that *No Exp. Req'd*, his latest play, concerns two spivvish brothers who advertise for cartoonists to help them with their new wheeze, which is to make colourful visiting cards for upwardly mobile kids.

No Exp. Req'd
Hampstead

The play is aimed largely at teenagers: which may explain why it is more schematic and didactic than Block's previous work. He has even introduced a *raisonneuse* in Helen Schlesinger's kindly Marilyn, a PA or (more accurately) tea-maker who intermittently steps out of the action to deliver *pensées* about bosses, jobs, industrial relations and so on.

She has plenty to discuss, for happily Block has lost none of his energy. Dim brother Dave (Tom Watt), who is desperate to enrich his wife and child, and aggressive brother Andy (Jay Simpson), who is as keen on power as on money, have a deadline to meet. They are constantly on the phone to their brother-in-law, threatening to "burn down your house with you stapled to the door" if he fails to produce the promised computer software on time. But Andy needs victims, and finds them in Jules (Kaye Wragg) and Clarke (the baldly named A.J.), two school-leavers beguiled by his wages.

At times the play resembles an employment advice manual, for Andy contrives to be racist and sexist, a cheat, a groper and an appalling bully. But then they learn that he needs them more than they need him, and take their revenge. The play is not just a big truism, however, and the sentimentality that threatens at the end is just a blind. Block is still Block, and in Andy he has created a character that Simpson relishes playing and I relished watching: a mean-faced monster for the millennium.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE





■ THEATRE

Sophie Okonedo stars in a new *Troilus and Cressida* at the National Theatre
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ MUSIC

Jolly japes with Oliver Knussen as he conducts two of his fantasy operas
CONCERT: Wed, QEH
REVIEW: Friday



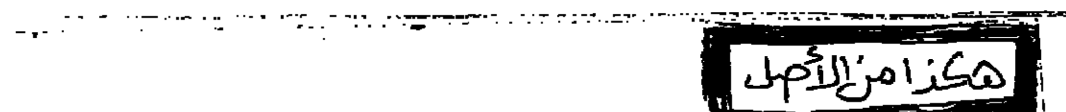
■ FILM

Just paranoia? Jeff Bridges watches his neighbour in the thriller *Arlington Road*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA

Alastair Miles sings the title role in ENO's staging of Boito's *Mephistopheles*
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



Uncle Sam falls out with his buddies

The US and Europe are at odds over more than bananas

Europe's relations with the United States have become awkward and fractious. Tensions range from trade, via currencies, to defence. So there is a discordant note about the 50th anniversary of the Atlantic Community, to be marked by a grand summit in Washington next month following the enlargement of Nato to include the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. The genuine reasons for celebration are qualified by doubts about the future of the transatlantic alliance.

Attitudes have also been soured by several unrelated incidents, minor in themselves but highly emotive — the acquittal in a military court of the American pilot responsible for severing the cable of a ski gondola in northern Italy which resulted in the death of 20 people, and the execution of an German citizen in Arizona. Moreover, the escalation of the long-running dispute over bananas is being depicted as *the start of a full-blown trade* war. Such American behaviour is seen by some in Europe as a symptom of what the political scientist Samuel Huntingdon has called a "rogue superpower".

During the Cold War, each event would have been played down or more easily contained. But the disappearance of the Soviet threat has allowed differences to surface in a more damaging way. The current malaise is rooted in this lengthy adjustment to the post-Cold War world.

Americans and Europeans both have ambivalent attitudes. Washington *has always fa*voured closer European integration but is apprehensive when it starts to happen. Europe wants a stronger collective voice and role of its own, yet has often been ineffective and depends on US military power.

American support for a larger European role has partly been in the name of burden-sharing — that is, more money and troops from this side of the Atlantic. However, *Washington* became alarmed last autumn when Tony Blair's proposals for giving credibility to the European Union's common foreign and security policy were followed by the British-French declaration at St Malo about giving Europe a capacity to act on its own where the US might not wish to deploy troops.

The Americans were partly concerned by what they saw as a lack of full consultation beforehand, especially by London, and by some of the "Euro" language involved. *Their main worries* were over decoupling — that is, Nato being undermined by a separate European caucus — and the possibility of discrimination against those European members of Nato who are not members of the EU, chiefly Turkey and Norway as well as the three new entrants. The Americans feared that the British were going along with a French desire to create a separate European security structure. Perversely, that would suit the growing group in the US Congress that would like Europe largely to look after its own defence, with America merely as a back-up while it concentrates on the *rest of the world.*

The British Government mounted an immediate campaign of reassurance that Nato would remain at the centre of European security and that there was no intention of creating a European army, nor of creating any decision-making role for the European Commission or European Parliament in military matters. London's close links with Washington were demonstrated shortly afterwards when Britain was the only European country to join the US in attacking Iraq. This was seen in France as contradicting the spirit of the St Malo declaration and demonstrating yet again the reluctance of the British to commit themselves fully to Europe, an echo of de Gaulle's reasons for the original veto against British membership in 1963.

As George Robertson, one of the Cabinet's successes, noted *in his interview with The Times* last Tuesday, the British aim is less to change institutions than to improve Europe's defence capabilities. At present, few European *troops can be deployed quickly* to somewhere such as the Balkans and few aircraft can undertake precision bombing. That gap is filled by the Americans.

However, last Thursday's debate in the House of Representatives revealed widespread misgivings about the commitment of troops to Kosovo in a peacekeeping role, although it was narrowly approved. Kosovo provides the *severest test both of* Nato's new role — and the revised "strategic concept" to be discussed in Washington — and of the European contribution. If the talks which restart today fail, Nato planes may be attacking Serbia before Easter.

Peter Riddell

This defence debate is matched by the ambivalent US attitude towards the euro, now that it has become a reality. Washington supports the idea, provided Europe remains outward-looking *and does not* become protectionist. (Europeans can, of course, turn that point around against growing protectionism in the US.) The Americans want to avoid a "fortress Europe", either economically or strategically, stressing enlargement to the east and that barriers should not be erected to Turkey.

Tony Blair is typical of postwar British leaders in being torn. He sees more clearly than most of his predecessors that Britain's *future lies in Europe and that* talk of a fifty-first state or an independent global role is nonsense. But he retains an affinity with the Americans, both in their economic attitudes and on most foreign policy issues.

Yet, as American policymakers often point out, Britain's influence in Washington is directly dependent on the extent to which it is involved in the EU. Hence Britain risks marginalising itself doubly by standing aside from Europe, and from the euro.

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk



Oskar starved to death

Why European finance ministers all face the same fate as knifeless diners

Why did Oskar Lafontaine resign? There was, no doubt, more than a touch of the George Brown or, for that matter, the Gordon Brown resentment. He was a frustrated candidate for the leadership, beaten by someone he thought was the more superficial man, who had a better touch with the public. He is probably also something of a manic depressive, as many leading politicians are; mild manic depression is a condition favourable to success in politics. No doubt he felt frustrated to see *Gerhard Schröder as Chancellor*, a man he considers to have no core beliefs, let alone socialist ones. Yet, even so, why did he resign?

The answer struck me at lunchtime on Saturday. We were having family lunch at Ston Easton Park, a beautiful Palladian house in Somerset. We lived there until 1978; it is now a first-class country house hotel, complete with an 18th-century ghost and a wide-ranging wine list. We go there to celebrate family occasions with children and grandchildren. We sat down at the table at 11 on Saturday; some are vegetarians, most were eating roast beef, *one was eating chicken.*

A finance minister, any finance minister, has a meal to eat. He, or she, has two implements of policy, the budget and the interest rate, like a knife and a fork on his plate. Using both the knife and the fork in a co-ordinated way, he can get the food into his mouth. Without the knife, he cannot cut the meat; without the fork, he cannot eat the peas. Vegetarians can just about manage with a fork only, but beef-eaters cannot.

Like us, there are 11 finance ministers sitting at the euro-table. They all have their own forks; they have control of their national budgets and can push the food around the plate, or into their own ever-open mouths, as Gordon Brown did the other day. Unfortunately for them, there is only one euro-knife; that is not in front of them but in the hands of the butler, who cuts their food, beef, chicken or vegetarian, into the same size pieces, as suits his fancy. The finance ministers of euroland have no influence on interest rates; if they dare so much as to ask the butler for a loan of the knife, he gives them a stern look and sends them to the back of the queue. The meal is not a happy one; the euro-hotel *is not recommended.*

Oskar Lafontaine did not resign just because he detests Gerhard Schröder, though undoubtedly he does. He did not resign simply because he has some very foolish ideas about policy, though he does. He resigned out of frustration, because he could not do his job. In his view the German economy urgently requires lower interest rates, if it is to avoid recession. He *may well be right. Germany has a* high-cost, high-unemployment, low-gross economy. He was undoubtedly wrong to want to put up industrial costs still further, but probably right to want the European Central Bank to cut rates. All he got was a contemptuous rejection by Wim Duisenberg, who was not having anyone as unimportant, as irrelevant, as the Finance Minister of *Germany presum*ing to tell the ECB what its interest rates ought to be.

William Rees-Mogg

The separation of the treasury and Central Bank functions makes the job of finance ministers impossible. How does it work in countries where there is an independent central bank, such as the United States and, now, Britain? The answer is co-ordination. The Treasury and the Bank of England, the US Treasury and the Federal Reserve, do indeed have independent powers, but they have a common objective of economic success and are under common pressures of opinion, democracy and the national interest. They are continuously involved in consultation and joint projects. They are like a diner who has a fork in his left hand and a knife in the right; left and right hands work together to eat the meal.

Oskar Lafontaine had already drawn the correct conclusion from this, a conclusion that has long been shared by British Eurosceptics with the majority of European statesmen, such as Chancellor Kohl. Eleven forks and one knife will not work. The choice is between 11 forks and 11 knives, or one European fork and one European knife — in short, a single European government. Only one set of people any longer pretend that 11 plus one is workable. They are the British promoters of joining the euro, and they, to be frank, are lying through their teeth. A single currency can only work if there is a single government.

This proposition was clear to *Oskar Lafontaine, which was why* he was advocating tax harmonisation and political integration. He had come to realise that his job was impossible. In this respect, nothing has been changed by his resignation; the German Government is still committed to integration, and the German Finance Minister's job is still impossible, all the more so because it is now held by Hans *Eichel, perhaps* a political nonentity, though still a euro-federalist.

The departure of Lafontaine is not the victory for Chancellor Schröder that has been claimed. Heads of government who lose their finance ministers are usually damaged and often destroyed by it. Margaret Thatcher was damaged politically by Nigel Lawson's resignation, far more than by Geoffrey Howe's speech. Although they shared responsibility for the 1992 exchange-rate *fiasco, John Major* was further damaged when he dismissed Norman Lamont in 1994. Schröder's Red-Green coalition seems now to be holed below the waterline. Germans detest weak *leadership: Schröder looks like an* indecisive leader, a political fixer rather than a statesman. It was, in the end, Lafontaine who found that he could *not* go on with Schröder, not the other way round.

Downing Street, whose all-spin band has become a laughable feature of modern British politics, also claimed victory, as it always does. Alastair Campbell would claim victories for the West Indies cricket team if Brian Lara was in Downing Street. In fact, the Lafontaine resignation has checked the apparently triumphant march of European social democracy, and that of the euro itself. The glory days are over, at least in Germany; they lasted only a few brief months.

Wim Duisenberg may be said to have won. Germany is euroland's biggest and most powerful economy; Oskar Lafontaine was not only the Finance Minister, but the chairman of the ruling party. He, and not Chancellor Schröder, was the leading figure of the German Left. Duisenberg and the European Cen*tral Bank were able not only to reject* his demand for a lower interest rate, but to do so with contempt.

There is a price to pay, even for that victory. Germany needs lower interest rates, as indeed does Italy. The ECB has demonstrated that it will not run the euro for the benefit even of Europe's most powerful economy. The euro is a solipsistic currency, existing for its own sake, not for the economic welfare of the 11 nations, either collectively or individually. The sacred euro-knife must be burnished and beautiful; it is too good to be used to cut meat.

B*efore the single currency* even began, the Maastricht treaty was a great destroyer of European politicians. The currency issue brought down Margaret Thatcher. Maastricht destroyed *John Major* and inflicted the worst election defeat for 165 years on the Conservatives. The preparations for the single currency turned out sitting governments all over Europe, in France repeatedly, in Italy perhaps — though corruption confuses that record — and finally in Germany.

Now we know that the logic of *Maastricht is working its havoc through the single currency. Those* of us who always argued that Maastricht would destroy the power of governments to manage their national economies now see it happening in euroland. Germany needs lower interest rates, Germany cannot have them; Lafontaine goes, the euro sails on, though looking somewhat seedy. The euro is the black *spot* of European politics. Who will be *next* to receive it? Gerhard Schröder himself, very probably. Lionel Jospin, more than possibly. In the end, I suspect, we shall see the black spot on the political tombstone of Tony Blair himself.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Mayor's muscle

AS LENNOX LEWIS mulls over life's little injustices, his manager is hitting the campaign trail. Frank Maloney, now negotiating a rematch for his bruised charge, *wants to run for* mayor of London, and hopes to wheel out Lewis to fight his corner for him.

"I want to stand as a totally independent non-politician Londoner," says Maloney, who plans to devote six months *to* fighting Livingstone, Archer *et al*. But what role might Lewis play? "I think he could be very useful in certain community sections," the quixotic Cockney offers, with the diplomacy of an instinctive politician.

SHAKESPEARE out of love. Trudi Styler — Mrs Sting (below left) — has asked the cast of Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels *to play* Romeo and Juliet *at the Globe on Saturday. Ethan Hawke and Jack Dee will also be doing their bit for Trudi's Tibetan peace garden. Vinnie Jones (below right) is still debating whether to don his tights.*





■ A CASE for Inspector Wexford. Why does the Government want Baroness Rendell of Babergh, the crime-writing Labour peer, to set one of her "thrillers" in the Millennium Dome? As Lord Falconer of Thoroton tries to whip up intellectual support for the erection, some of his colleagues have suggested that Rendell should write a tale about it. "I am a liaison peer for the project," the baroness tells me. "But it is not really my sort of place."

WHEN Sean Connery complains, people listen. Coughing and wheezing in a Heathrow drawing room, Connery muttered that his chosen airline could do with a no-smoking lounge. By the next day, one had been created.

■ JIM DAVIDSON, MP. This challenging prospect is being floated by desperate types in Central Office who think that the boorish, multi-married "comedian", recently elected to the arch-Tory Carlton Club, could boost party morale.

"I can see why the Labour Party might want me to stand — it wouldn't work," Davidson tells me. "MPs are expected to be saints, which wouldn't *suit me. Soon* we will be left with trainspotters in the Commons." He adds, charmingly: "They would catch me shagging or something within a week."

CHRIS SMITH is tiring of Islington council, home to generations of feuding Labourites. Asked by his local boat club to lobby for more borough funds, Smith attested that "they are a very efficiently run organisation", noting: "By comparison with the borough council ... they provide real value."



■ MICHAEL PORTILLO'S interest in Wagner was cultivated in office. Michael Stern, the former MP, remembers labouring with Portillo over the Finance Bill in 1994 (the bequiffed one was Chief Secretary to the Treasury). "He said politics reminded him of Parsifal, whose spear kept coming back."

SIR PAUL McCARTNEY, recovering from the death of his wife, is feeling karmic: he is campaigning to release a Tibetan from a Chinese jail. Ngawang Choepel was given 18 years for collecting Tibetan folk music: McCartney has written to him, lobbied the Chinese Government and met his mother.

■ RIGHT to Roam meant little to Stanley Kubrick. As Hollywood's finest assembled for the director's funeral at Childwickbury Manor, his Hertfordshire country estate, a neighbour told me that locals had been incensed by Kubrick slapping a "private property" sign at the end of an ancient public bridleway: "He was a complete pain."

JASPER GERARD

'The trouble with glasnost was that once people felt freer, once everything was out in the open, Gorbachev got the blame for it'

By 1991 Mikhail Gorbachev, the last General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, had already been consigned to the pleasures of the international *lecture circuit by his rival, Boris* Yeltsin. It is fairly clear who got the better deal. Today that very lecture circuit brings a slick, reinvented, elder-statesman-style Gorbachev to King's College, *Cambridge, and* a symposium called Russia on the Eve of a New Millennium.

This is, of course, the dream event for those who love to speculate on the future of Russia as though it is something that must be resolved once and for all and, fortunately for Mikhail Sergeyevich, the audience will be mostly *non*-Russian. For back in the former USSR he would be hard pushed to find any audience for his ruminations.

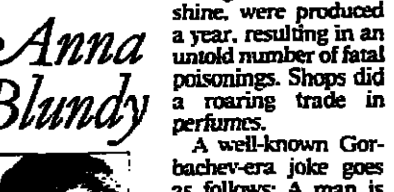
Here he is still loathed as a *man who betrayed his past*, who sold the Soviet Union to the West for a few dollars and who let his country disintegrate before his eyes. In the mid-1980s, while Gorbymania gripped the Eng*lish-speaking world. Russians* were wondering where the booze had gone. Although there are many and complex reasons for Gorbachev's lack of popularity at home, for he will always be someone who destroyed rather than created, the thing that Russians hold against him more than anything else is his appallingly miscalculated prohibition.

Despite the fact that he could easily have thrust himself forward as a man of the people in the Yeltsin mould (born to a peasant family in 1931, the very year his village was collectivised, he worked the fields, lost relatives to purges and wars and worked his way painstakingly up the party ladder in Stavropol), *this mistake set him* apart from them.

But this was 1985 and Gorbachev seemed to have hit upon what was (and in fact *still is) the problem* with the Soviet Union. "Our rockets can find Halley's comet and reach Venus," he said. "But our fridges don't work." Now, of course, the rockets are not up to much, either.

Alcohol, he decided, was at the root of the problem, and the man who became known as the "mineral water secretary" rather than the General Secretary clamped down on it with a vengeance. Opening hours for shops selling alcohol were curtailed and queues stretched around the block. Alcohol was banned from official receptions and 150 million decilitres of *samogon*, or moonshine, were produced a year, resulting in an untold number of fatal poisonings. Shops did a roaring trade in *perfumes.*

Anna Blundy



A well-known Gorbachev-era joke goes as follows: A man is waiting in line for vodka. After four hours, he says "OK, I've had enough of this. I'm going to the Kremlin to kill Gorbachev". A few hours later, he comes back to resume his place in the queue. "So? Did you kill him?" ask his fellow queuers. "No. The queue to do that was even longer," he sighs.

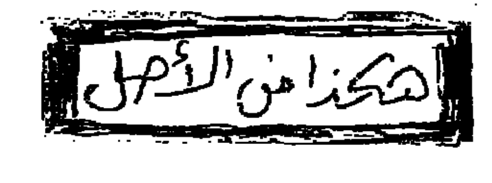
The telling thing is that there *were* any Gorbachev-era jokes. There were never any jokes about Stalin. The trouble with glasnost was that once people felt freer, once everything was out in the open, Gorbachev got the blame for it.

Suddenly the theatres were producing plays about Stalinist purges, the sites of mass graves *were being uncovered, the world* was told about the Chernobyl disaster, dissidents told stories of their exile, imprisonment and torture, the huge-scale corruption of party bosses and the unimagined privileges of the elite were revealed. And the stench of all this rot, with which Gorbachev was barely associated, stuck to the very man who wished to dispense with it by exposing it.

Also, as far as cultured Russians were concerned, the guy was a fake. He had cleaned up his Russian and you could almost *be fooled into believing* that he was an *intelligent*, but every now and then his southern peasant twang would slip out and intellectuals would fall about sniggering at the country boy who pretended to be a gentleman. Even today you only have to misplace the stress on the word "to begin" at a dinner party *and people will laugh at your* witty imitation. He was saved from acquiring such a blemish in the West by his brilliant English interpreter, who singlehandedly made his employer seem a worthy *bantering* partner for Clive Anderson.

Mikhail Gorbachev is adored by the West partly because America sets so much store by freedom of speech. In Russia, it was always joked that Gorbachev failed to provide food, clothing, security and the continuation of a way of life, but he managed to provide freedom of speech. "But the thing is, most of us didn't have anything to say."

comment@the-times.co.uk



EXCESS LOAD

The Budget has hit the road haulage industry too hard

The Government's 1998 Comprehensive Spending Review described Britain's transport system as "overcrowded, under-planned and under-maintained". Since public investment in transport accounted for only 20 per cent of the £38 billion it was then raising in fuel and other road taxes, some may see that as unsurprising. Although rail freight has grown since privatisation, road transport takes most of the strain of moving goods and people around this country. Road haulage carries four fifths of all freight, an annual 1.65 billion tonnes of goods. A Budget supposedly geared to promote enterprise and improve Britain's competitiveness would not therefore, it might be thought, impose further steep taxes on a road haulage industry which already pays many times more for vehicle licences and fuel than its continental competitors. Yet that is what this year's Budget, whose fiscal complexities become daily more apparent, will do.

Gordon Brown sugared the pill with some headline-catching "green" gestures, cutting vehicle excise taxes for "clean" buses and small vans as well as small cars. But the great bulk of haulage operations continues to be burdened with taxes that are many times continental levels; and for 38-tonne heavy goods vehicles, the workhorses of Britain's most competitive fleets, licences will now rise from £3,310 to £5,750 a year. The EU average tax in this class is £1,100 — and £459 in France. The industry has also been hard-hit by the Budget's 14 per cent increase in tax on diesel, which raises the cost of filling a 1,000-litre lorry tank to £644, compared with £340 in Belgium and £370 in France.

The costs will be borne not only by the 53,000 who, according to today's leading letter to *The Times*, could lose their jobs between now and the next general election; they will be felt throughout business and industry, because they will drive up costs overall. These imposts come, moreover, on top of road and fuel duty increases since 1997 which, before this Budget, were already due to net the Treasury an extra £8.7 billion by 2001-02.

If Gordon Brown was motivated by green ambitions and believed that the impact would be to shift haulage to rail, he should have thought more carefully. The combination of just-in-time deliveries and gaps in the rail networks means that there is no workable substitute for efficient road transport; it makes little sense, therefore, to put British operators at the mercy of foreign competitors whose costs are considerably lower. Thanks to the single market, the biggest companies have an alternative: they can register their fleets abroad, as many now plan to do. That is harder for small operators which primarily serve the domestic market and would find re-registration too expensive. The exponential increase in the numbers of foreign lorries entering Britain shows how effectively they are being undercut. Either way, the Government will lose tax revenues, and British people will lose employment.

The Government should think again. Business has already been the biggest loser from Labour's people-friendly Budgets. The new Budget's "business-friendly" measures, aimed at helping small businesses, are so complex that the chief beneficiaries are likely to be accountants. Clarity about ends and simplicity of approach used to be accounted virtues in Chancellors; the road haulage taxes offer a good example of the abiding need for both.

IRANIAN OVERTURE

The West should listen to Iran's new young democratic voices

Iran presents two faces to the world. One still bears the hard features of Ayatollah Khomeini, deeply reactionary and viscerally hostile to the West. The other is of a people sick of isolation and the corrupt medievalism of Iran's theocratic experiment. This other face is represented by President Mohammad Khatami, whose trips to Italy last week and France next month are the first visits by an Iranian leader to Europe in the two decades since the Islamic revolution. Mr Khatami is not yet master in the divided Iranian house. But his overtures to the West reflect real changes in Iran; and its spirited grassroots movement deserves to be taken seriously.

The travels in the West of this relatively liberal cleric follow an electoral triumph last month for the liberalisers he leads at home. In local elections, they swept in their thousands into municipal councils and mayors' seats, creating new power bases for the young and outward-looking, notably including women. This ballot-box revolt against the forces of Islamist reaction has not unseated them yet. But it has put them increasingly on the defensive.

At government level, since Mr Khatami won the presidency two years ago he has chipped at the power bases of Iran's hardline supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with growing success. He has had few weapons but the moral authority born of his huge popularity, but he has used that in the causes of tolerance, free speech and greater accountability. Earlier this year, he forced the hitherto untouchable intelligence ministry to concede its responsibility for the mysterious murders of prominent intellectuals; and on Saturday, secular Iranian writers who have been shunned or persecuted for two decades were publicly honoured. The elections added to his successes, returning to politics Abdollah Nouri, a liberal former Interior Minister forced from office by the die-hards. The 70 per cent of popular support that Mr Khatami commands suggests that the conservatives' grip on their strongholds in parliament, the judiciary, the police and parts of the army could also be shaken in legislative elections next year.

Iran today is Islamic, but almost "post-Islamist". It is a land in intellectual ferment. Iranians are hooked up to the Internet. They go to pop festivals. Women passionately defend their right to play sports. More than half are much too young to recall the 1979 revolution. They want jobs and enough money to marry; they chafe at petty religious persecution and detest the corruption that, along with a US-led trade boycott, has crippled a country with the world's second largest reserves of natural gas and fourth largest of oil. Mr Khatami has won them over with his advocacy of a more tolerant society, respect for law and, not least, economic recovery aided by new Western ties.

The West, as Washington constantly reminds Europeans, still has solid reasons to be wary of the Iranian regime, including its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons and support for international terrorism. But it is too simplistic to see Mr Khatami's foreign overtures as no more than an attempt to drive a wedge between the US and its more accommodating EU allies. The danger of backsliding is ever present. But he has distanced Iran from terrorism, accepted the right of Palestinians to make peace with Israel, and dissociated his Government from the fatwa against Salman Rushdie. The West should do all it can to encourage further change.

If Mr Khatami continues to modernise, and if he can keep the promises he has made, there is a case for easing the US trade embargo. Imposed two decades ago, it may be too blunt an instrument for the subtler realities of today. Sanctions comfort the powerful handful of Iranians who still label America "the Great Satan"; and if the President is to outflank them, he urgently needs to revive the economy. That will require foreign investment as well as the domestic reforms which Mr Khatami is trying to implement. As Margaret Thatcher famously said of Mikhail Gorbachev, he could be a man to do business with.

ON THE ROPES

A dubious result worsens boxing's dire reputation

The heavyweight division has long symbolised the decline of professional boxing as a sport. Two decades ago, it was dominated by athletes whose personalities matched their biceps. The 1970s saw Muhammad Ali's improbable and memorable triumph over George Foreman and, 12 months later, his astonishing victory over Joe Frazier in the Philippines. Since then the number of "official" world boxing organisations has multiplied. The division has more titles than a Ruritanian aristocrat; and more does not mean better. In the absence of any other boxing giant, the sport has become dangerously dependent on Mike Tyson — the triumph of psychopathy over personality.

With Tyson once again a reluctant guest of the American penal system, it was up to Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis to restore heavyweight boxing's long-lost glory. Their encounter at Madison Square Garden New York City was promoted as the last significant fight of the 20th century. In the event, this putative heir to the "rumble in the jungle" and the "thriller in Manila" turned out to be "unfair in the Square". Despite a clearly commanding performance by Lewis that left Holyfield desperate for the final bell, the three judges somehow produced a draw. Obviously there will now be a lucrative rematch.

This has done nothing to redeem the tattered reputation of boxing. Lest this be considered partisan sour grapes, the comments of almost the entire American press can be entered as supporting evidence. The words of the *New York Post* sum up US sentiment. Lewis, it said, had beaten Holyfield "from here to London — with stop-offs in Jamaica and Canada along the way — and back again". The basic statistics of the contest, in terms of punches thrown and landed, would appear to confirm that analysis.

This distinctly dubious result was a miserable conclusion to a fight which itself was scarcely worthy of the attention. It should have produced an undisputed heavyweight champion of the world but even if it had, the pre-eminence of Ali, Foreman and Frazier would not have been dented. The various bodies responsible for boxing should ensure a swift rematch and natural justice suggests that it should be held in London. Boxing has become a controversial activity, a huge and highly commercialised audience-puller but no longer the sport it once was. It cannot afford more embarrassment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Budget rise in fuel costs condemned

From Mr David Green, Director General of the Freight Transport Association, and others

Sir, Among the many omissions in the Chancellor's Budget speech was a reference to the massive increase imposed on diesel fuel. Prices in this country are already twice as high as the highest in Europe, and while the theory behind the fuel duty escalator — by which duty rises by a set percentage each year — may be impeccable, there is no evidence that it has actually delivered any environmental benefits.

Add to this a vehicle excise duty which is 11 times higher here than in France and it is not surprising that hundreds of transport operators are actively seeking to register their vehicles abroad.

There is evidence that the huge differences in transport taxation levels between the UK and the rest of Europe will generate more job losses than would result if the Longbridge car plant, Birmingham, were to close. Statistics compiled by the Centre for Economic and Business Research, published on February 12, show that a total of 53,000 jobs will disappear from the transport and related support industries by 2002 unless current transport taxation policies are changed.

We have a vital interest in the competitiveness of British industry. Distribution is a significant element of manufactured costs and the Chancellor should recognise that Tuesday's Budget has not only failed to improve our ability to compete but has actually made matters worse.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. GREEN,
PETER AGAR
(Confederation of British Industry),
IAIN HANFORD
(Federation of Small Businesses),
DAVID HIGGINBOTTOM
(United Road Transport Union),
CHRIS HUMPHRIES
(British Chambers of Commerce),
RICHARD MACDONALD
(National Farmers' Union),
STEVEN NORRIS
(Road Haulage Association),
Freight Transport Association,
Hermes House,
St John's Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9UZ.
March 12.

From Mr Bernard Jenkin, MP for Essex North (Conservative)

Sir, The Budget kept vehicle excise duty (VED) on trucks at nearly seven times the level of many other EU countries. Large trucks registered and operated in the UK are now completely uncompetitive with their EU counterparts. Registering 50 trucks abroad would save the operator some £600,000 per year in VED and fuel taxes.

The Road Haulage Association has set up a service that took 700 inquiries on the first day from truckers asking about registering on the Continent. The same number of trucks will be run. They will simply burn foreign fuel and pay foreign taxes. Smaller companies that cannot re-register will fail.

Speaking after the Budget, Transport Minister Glenda Jackson said: "Many foreign hauliers ... are now moving to the UK and using it as a base for their operations" (*House of Commons Official Report: European Standing Committee A*, March 10, col 8). "We perceive haulage firms from mainland Europe moving their operations into this country" (*ibid*, col 9). She can only mean that they are coming here with foreign-registered trucks and cheap foreign fuel to mop up the UK competition.

When the Conservatives discovered that high whisky duty was damaging that industry, we announced a review that led to cuts in whisky duties in our last two Budgets.

No other EU country has a fuel escalator. The Government's present policy must be reversed.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD JENKIN
(Shadow Minister of Transport),
House of Commons.
March 12.

Uganda and Sudan

From the Chargé d'Affaires ai of Sudan

Sir, Your editorial about the barbaric murders of eight Western tourists in Uganda, "Death in Uganda: a successful African state with very dangerous borders" (March 3), refers to Sudan as a supporter of some of the rebel movements opposing the Uganda regime.

The Ugandan Government under Museveni has attempted to destabilise every one of its neighbours with the exception of Tanzania. Sudan does not harbour or support any of the Ugandans that have chosen to militarily oppose the regime in their country. If Uganda has dangerous borders, they would appear to be largely of its own making.

Yours faithfully,
A. Al KORONKY,
Sudan Embassy,
3 Cleveland Row,
St James's, SW1A 1DD.
March 5.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Fight to end female circumcision

From Colonel Patrick Montgomery

Sir, Having worked with people concerned about female genital mutilation (FGM) for the past 35 years, I was glad to read your admirable leading article "Tradition and torture" (March 6) and in particular the importance you attach to education.

A Sudanese gynaecologist who had, ever since he qualified, fought to eradicate FGM at risk to his career, because of what it had done to his sister, told me in 1978 that FGM had not the approval of any medical or religious authority, though none had yet condemned it. Neither the World Health Organisation nor Unicef had yet dared openly to oppose it. At that time it was left to a single non-governmental organisation (NGO). Wisely, in 1979 that NGO delegated the task (together with the means and the knowhow) to a group of African women. That group is now running educational pilot projects in 25 African countries, with their governments' approval.

Educational work must be based on an understanding of why the practice continues to exercise so strong a hold. Willing acceptance on the part of women constitutes a formidable barrier to change. Where society demands that a man shall marry a girl only if she has been "done", it will take great determination to refuse. No man will marry an uncircumcised girl and society will have no place for her unmarried.

For this reason, educational efforts need to focus on the attitudes of men. Once the taboo is broken it should surely not be too difficult to persuade young men that depriving a woman of her clitoris is depriving her of her ability to respond sexually.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MONTGOMERY,
The Oast House,
Framfield Road,
Buxted, East Sussex TN22 4PP.
March 7.

From Mr Leslie James

Sir, I was enormously impressed and gratified to read Sue Fox's interview with Waris Dirie (Magazine, March 6). I served as a Commandant of Police in the Sudan while it was an Anglo-Egyptian Condominium and well remember the passing of an ordinance to outlaw female circumcision. But, even then, a criminal prosecution could not be instituted without the consent of the Advocate-General, and I cannot recall any charge being preferred during my term of office.

Waris Dirie deserves our unremitting praise for her courageous stand.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE JAMES,
47 Bradwell Road,
Longthorpe, Peterborough PE3 9PY.
March 8.

Women's writing

From Mrs Gillian Petrie Hunter

Sir, It's all very well for established women writers and publishers to sneer at *Mslexia* (report, "New magazine for women not the write stuff", March 8). However, Debbie Taylor, its editor, is surely right about the paper ceiling which prevents many women, who may be talented but not sufficiently persistent, from getting into print.

In your report, magazine publisher Sally O'Sullivan said: "Successful writers aren't that helpful when it comes to giving advice ..." I would go further and say that there is a general discouragement by British agents and publishers of new writing, whether by women or men.

Years ago, when I worked in publishing, I had to rescue the incoming manuscripts from the sole arbitration of the office junior — heaven knows how many Iris Murdochs and Doris Lessings we had turned down! Judging by some of the baffling rejection letters I see today as writer and editor, I am fairly sure matters have not improved. Whether or not it is happily named, I wish *Mslexia* well.

Yours faithfully,
G. V. J. PETRIE HUNTER,
Hunterston, Donhead St Andrew,
Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9EB.

From Ms Michèle Roberts

Sir, I did indeed say to your reporter that I disliked the title of the magazine *Mslexia*, but I also explained at some length that I believed the magazine may have an educational role to play in supporting women's writing and that I do believe subtle discrimination against women in the literary world and the media world persists.

This would seem to be borne out by your report, which gives only hostile reactions to *Mslexia* and omits any favourable ones.

Yours faithfully,
MICHÈLE ROBERTS,
109 Queens Quay,
58 Upper Thames Street, EC4V 3EJ.
March 11.

Laptops for teachers

From the Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, On your front page on March 6 you speculated that every teacher would have a free laptop computer as a result of the Budget (see also letters, March 11). In fact, while there is a substantial input of new money planned for computers, it was not correct to say that it would mean a free laptop for every teacher. The £470 million UK-wide programme will mean a network of learning centres for both adults and young people to improve access to information technology and to raise computer literacy standards.

We have provided £20 million to offer low-cost loans to enable teachers to buy computers and a further £15 million to offer less well-off homes the chance to lease recycled and refurbished computers at low cost. Both initiatives will help to raise standards and ensure we bridge the gap between the computer "haves and have nots".

This money is in addition to the extra £1.1 billion for schools (which should reach schools if their local authority uses money for education for that purpose) and in addition to extra money from the Standards Fund for the three Rs and other measures to improve achievement.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
Department for Education and Employment,
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BT.
March 11.

From Dr Phillip Hallam-Baker

Sir, Michael Barratt (letter, March 11) asks what teachers can do with the laptop computers and modems which are to be provided by the Government.

If they used them to exchange ideas on teaching and lesson plans they could both save themselves time and teach each other to become better teachers. Rather than the national curriculum being dictated by Whitehall committees, it could be developed by teachers who still teach their subject with the benefit of advice from the best researchers in the country.

We built the Web as a collaboration tool.

Yours etc,
PHILLIP HALLAM-BAKER,
73 Merriam Street,
Somerville, Massachusetts 02143.
March 11.

Dressed for success?

From Mr George Webb

Sir, As the TV camera panned along the serried ranks of backbench MPs at Wednesday's PMQs, for the first time ever I could not be sure if I was watching Tory, Labour or other MPs.

The government benches now display uniformly immaculately suited and groomed Labour MPs; a far cry from the homely corduroys and red ties of a bygone era (apart from Dennis Skinner, that is). They are indeed a credit to us all.

Forward with new Labour.

Sincerely,
GEORGE WEBB,
11 Long Hill Rise,
Hucknall, Nottingham NG15 6GL.
March 10.

Winning chess

From Mr Steve Astbury

Sir, The most astonishing point about the German chess computer cheat (report, March 12) is that the computer could checkmate a grandmaster in eight moves. I thought that this only ever happened to me.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE ASTBURY,
13 Old Road,
Chesterfield, Debyshire S44 5HS.
deltaroofingdist@btinternet.com
March 12.

The headless man

From Mr Richard Lamb

Sir, Like Michael Thornton (report, March 8), I have seen the Denning private archive about the late Duchess of Argyll. Lord Denning offered me access to it when I was researching into the Profumo affair for my book *The Macmillan Years* (John Murray, 1995).

These papers make it possible to identify the headless man in the Argyll case, but Denning made me promise not to reveal his name as the man was still alive. I cannot believe that Michael Thornton was not obliged to give a similar promise.

The most intriguing part of the file was Denning's discovery that a senior Cabinet minister had been engaged in disgusting practices with prostitutes and a junior minister had homosexual affairs. Both could have been blackmailed and were thus security risks.

Denning told the Prime Minister (and Macmillan noted it twice in his diary) but omitted it from his report. In my book I wrote that Macmillan feared the Government might be brought down if Denning included it.

Yours truly,
RICHARD LAMB,
Knighton Manor, Broadchalke,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 5EB.
March 8.

Sport letters, page 34

Dismay at loss of legal aid clause

From the Head of Legal Affairs of the Consumers' Association and others

Sir, We are dismayed that the Lord Chancellor's Department has dismissed as a "gimmick" an important new clause in the Access to Justice Bill, which has its third reading in the House of Lords on Tuesday (Law Diary, February 23).

The clause was passed in the Lords last month by a majority of 71. It sets the Government the objective of ensuring that legal aid is available to those without means: of protecting individuals against discrimination on the basis of disability or where they live; and ensuring that the legally aided party is placed on an equal footing relative to the other side. Having promised to set its own objectives, the Government has tabled proposals which are plainly inadequate.

The Lord Chancellor is planning to have these safeguards struck out in the Commons, despite the fact that the equal treatment of people before the law has been central to the thinking behind our system of legal aid since its inception some fifty years ago.

The requirement that legal aid should be subject to available resources does not remove the need to set objectives for spending those resources. If the Lord Chancellor believes that such a clause is "quite unrealistic", then we must conclude that from now on those on legal aid can be expected to receive a second-class service.

Legislators put "objectives" clauses in Bills for good reasons: to ensure that the executive is bound to deliver in practice what it regularly promises in its political rhetoric.

A law without clear objectives may meet the government interest. Only a law with objectives meets the public interest.

Yours sincerely,
ASHLEY HOLMES,
Head of Legal Affairs,
Consumers' Association,
DAN BRENNAN,
Chairman, General Council of the Bar,
VICKI CHAPMAN,
Policy Director, Legal Action Group,
MICHAEL MATHEWS,
President, The Law Society,
Consumers' Association,
2 Marylebone Road, NW1 4DF.
March 12.

Prayer and shopping

From the Suffragan Bishop of Maidstone

Sir, It was refreshing to read a fair piece of reporting on the Churches' plans for the millennium (report, "Shopping is next to godliness, says new liturgy", March 9). Only one thing spoilt your report. You referred to "the millennium prayer or 'resolution' ". There is no such prayer.

The Churches do not believe the millennium resolution is a prayer, and have never presented it as such. It is meant to be a new year resolution, setting out some of the biblical values that society needs if it is to make a new start in the new century.

The reason this is put in the form of a resolution rather than a prayer is important and must not be missed. In a prayer you put the responsibility on to God to achieve the end. In a resolution you put the burden on yourself, and in the matter of making a better society that's where the responsibility should lie.

Yours sincerely,
† GAVIN MAIDSTONE
(Chairman, Archbishops' Millennium Advisory Group),
Bishop's House, Pett Lane,
Charing, Kent TN27 0DL.
March 9.

From Mr George Medd

Sir, Worshipping the God of shopping should always be followed by home confession, using the traditional words: " ... We have bought those things which we ought not to have bought; And there is no wealth in us."

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MEDD,
Littlebourne Cottage,
Twyford, Hampshire SO21 1PZ.
March 9.

From Mr N. A. S. Andrews

Sir, In the Lenten addresses I have been giving, entitled *From Paganism to Christianity*, I asked in our first session if awe of God had not been replaced by awe for the goods of Marks & Spencer.

We now know the answer to my question.

Yours faithfully,
N. A. S. ANDREWS,
Ashwood Farmhouse,
Mill Lane, Preston next Wingham
Canterbury, Kent CT3 1HG.
March 9.

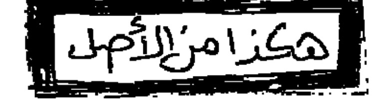
Budget miracle

From Mr Gerald Solomon

Sir, You report today that "*solicitors were rushing*" (my italics) to beat a deadline created by increased stamp duty on the sale of high-priced properties.

Who said that Chancellors can't work miracles?

Yours faithfully,
GERALD SOLOMON,
Sylvan, Pwllglas,
Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 2PD.
March 11.





COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 13: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Centenario Football *Stadium to meet* participants in a project to support disadvantaged young people.

His Royal Highness later toured the Laguna del Sauce Naval Airbase, Punta del Este.

Afterwards The Prince of Wales visited the Maldonado Museum.

This afternoon His Royal Highness departed by air for the Falkland Islands.

This evening The Prince of Wales arrived at Mount Pleasant Airport, where he was greeted by the Governor, Mr Richard Ralph.

His Royal Highness later laid a wreath at the 1982 Memorial in Stanley.

The Prince of Wales afterwards attended a reception in Stanley Town Hall.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 13: The Princess Royal this morning visited BICC Factory, Subic Bay, Philippines.

Her Royal Highness today had lunch with Non-Governmental Organisations at Mimosa Resort, Angeles City.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited the TPKI Micro-Finance Project at Community Centre (Opportunity International Livelihood Project) in Angeles City.

Her Royal Highness later attended the Handover ceremony *at Clark Airfield of bullock carts to* displace Acta tribesmen.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception for the British Community given by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Philippines (His Excellency Mr Alan Collins) at his Residence.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 14: The Prince of Wales this morning attended morning prayers at Christ Church Cathedral, Stanley.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Old People's Centre at King Edward's Memorial Hospital.

The Prince of Wales later laid a wreath *at the military cemetery* at San Carlos.

This afternoon His Royal Highness visited Goose Green where he laid a wreath at the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment Memorial and then attended a reception for the local community.

The Prince of Wales later met residents of West Falkland at Fox Bay Village before visiting a wildlife tourism centre on Sea Lion Island.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a dinner given in his honour by the Governor, Mr Richard Ralph, at his residence.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 14: The Princess Royal this morning departed the Philippines for New Zealand.

Her Royal Highness this *evening arrived in* New Zealand and was received by Commander W.R.E. Burroughs RNZN Honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency The Governor-General.

Royal engagements

The Duke of York, as patron, London Contemporary Dance *Trust, will attend a dinner at* The Place, London SW1, at 7.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Grand Master, Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, will attend an officers' meeting at Eton College, Windsor, at 11.15; and as Chancellor, Surrey University, will attend a Business Advisory Group dinner at *Brooks's, St James's Street, at 7.15.*

Nature notes

The first summering chiffchaffs are back in Britain *from the Mediterranean.* At first, they feed where insects are abundant, often around the catkins of sallow trees: *then they move on to the* woods where they will nest, and their chinking song rings out *from the treetops.* They claim a large territory at first but as other chiffchaffs arrive, all their territories get smaller. Hedge sparrows are singing their thin song among the yellow forsythia flowers; the males will often have several mates. *Herons are nesting in* high trees, usually by lakesides: some birds are already sitting on their blue eggs in the bulky nests. Both sexes *incubate, and when one ar*rives to take over from the other, they greet each other by pointing their long beaks at the sky. *The sticky scales* are falling off the horse-chestnut buds, and the leaves are show*ing through, still* clustered together like a little egg. Some hawthorn hedges are already a mass of bright green tufts. Sweet violets are out on woodland banks: they have a subtle scent but it does not carry very far. Wood anemones, *with* their frail white petals, are just opening on the woodland floor. DJM

The chiff-chaff

Crufts Show results

Day 2
Working and pastoral group

Briard: Ch Brichard De Venoge, Mrs C Baker, London. Komondor: Karcagpusztai Dorka, Mr & Mrs Otey, Louth, Lincs. Maremma Sheepdog: Ch Rodanna Italian Insignia, Mr R Martinali, Stamford, Lincs. Norwegian Buhund: Ch Olpenden D'Zimba, Mrs C Denham-Horton, Nottingham.

Polish Lowland Sheepdog: Ch Mybeards Dynamite, Mrs D Mottram, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. *Pyrenean Mountain Dog:* Galliagh Nistos, Mrs D Holland, Eire. Samoyed: Ch Zamoyski Lucy Casanova at Raybridge, Mrs B Enticott, Chard, Somerset. Swedish Vallhund: *Valshep Come On Joe, Mr & Mrs A Lay, St* Leonards, East Sussex. Bouvier Des Flandres: Ch Kanix Zulu, Miss K Wilburg, Swindon, Wiltshire. Dobermann: Sallate Striptease, Mr D Gelderd, Nottingham. Mastiff: Ch Darkling Finn Mac Cumhal of Bredwardine, Mr P Tugwell, Llangadog, Dyfed. St Bernard: Ch Timeside Mr Sloba Doba, Mr & Mrs A Davis, Rochester, Kent.

*Alaskan Malamute: Shepherdsway, Phan*tom Scout, Mrs A Allen, Wisbech, Cambs. Boxer: Seacrest Danoli At Carmondene, Mr C Moncur-Drysdale, Edinburgh. Bull Mastiff: Ch. Dixon of the Green, Mr E Thompson, Bloxwich, West Midlands. Eskimo Dog: Artik at Seacourt, Mrs J Parkyns, Stoke on Trent. Giant Schnauzer: Jafrak Zucchini, Mr K Cullen, St Leonards, East Sussex. Hovawart: *Pines Douglas, Mrs W Inches, Perth.* Neopolitan Mastiff: Caleeno's Zappa, Mr N Clarke, Hailsham, East Sussex. Newfoundland: Cayuga Edwardo Four Merrybear, Mr G Cutts, Southampton.

Pinscher: Swanwite Red Ensign, Miss H Leggett, Ayr. Rottweiler: Amunique King of Diamonds, Mr and Mrs W McInally, Ayr, Scotland. Siberian Husky: Ch. Yabet Tamarisk, Mrs A Lunn, Welney, Cambs. Bearded Collie: Ch. Potterdale Prophets, Mr & Mrs J Lewis, Southwell, Notts. Collie (Rough): Ch. Antoc Crystal Rainbow, Mr & Mrs J Smedley, Christchurch, Dorset. Old English Sheepdog: Ch. Oakfarm Octavia, *Mr & Mrs R Goddard,* Worksop, Nottinghamshire. Welsh Corgi (Pembroke): Foxydale Smart Guy, Mrs M Neal, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

Australian Cattle Dog: Curdeleon Blue the Boy Wunda, Mr & Mrs J Chetwynd, Hereford. Belgian Shepherd Dog: Talamo Luna, Mr J Thornley, Rossendale, Lancs. Colley (smooth): Rowvale Rosemarie, Mr & Mrs J MacGregor, Quorn, *Leicestershire. Estrella Mountain Dog:* Asterel Amber, Mrs V Moncaster, Bristol. Hungarian Kuvasz: Ashley Chase By Dreamcatcher, Mrs T Brent, Brentford, Middlesex. Hungarian Puli: Rockisland Pan Dancer, Mr & Mrs W Fulton, Dumfriesshire. Shetland Sheep Dog: Ch. Seavall Sheen, Mrs J Hardman, Newcastle upon Tyne. Burmese Mountain Dog: Ch. Hildvek Jonquill, Mr & Mrs D Edmunds, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

Great Dane: Ch. Turlum True to Form, Mrs J Greig, Perthshire. Leonberger: Manorguard Lady Lisa at Leotroy, Mr & Hanley, Bambury, *Oxon. Portuguese Water Dog: Otherton Pure* Illusion, Mr & Mrs K Hopkinson, Chippenham, Wiltshire. Tibetan Mastiff: Kangchung Winston at Heronsview, Mr R Gardiner, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan.

Anatolean Shepherd Dog: Arda Kangal Laika Bruchhauser Wall Von Seacop, Mrs P Broadhead, Wrexham. Border Collie: Dykebar Search for a Star, Mr and Mrs J Ritchie, Bells *Hill, Lanarkshire.* German Shepherd Dog: Tessgerin Rozela, Mr J Dobby, Helmsworth, West Yorkshire. Lancashire Heeler: Lausteph Waltzing Matilda, Mrs L Martin, Robertsbridge, *East Sussex. Welsh Corgi (Cardigan):* Ch Gowerston Gambler, Mrs S Muckle, Redditch, Worcestershire.

Day 3
Terriers and hounds group

Airedale terrier: Stanstead, Second Strike at Jokyl, Miss O Jackson, Farnham, Surrey. Australian Terrier: Ch Dinky Di, Southern Cross, Mrs S Stoddart, Ayton, Berwick. Bedlington Terrier: Mollora Fire King, Mrs S *Morrice, Inverness. Border Terrier: Ch Hol*combe, Jack Daniels, Miss C Sneddon, Bury, Lancashire.

Bull Terrier: Bucheriss, Blackmailed by *Midline, Mrs L Hooker, Raleigh, Essex. Bull* terrier (miniature): Ch made to measure of Bullyon, Mrs & Mrs M Phillips, Staines, Middlesex. Cairn Terrier: Penticharm new dawn *for conundrum, Mr & Mrs D Parker,* Leicester. Dandie Dinmont terrier: Dentgate, loveletters, Mr & Mrs T Denham, Co Durham. Fox terrier (smooth) Ch Bannside, Father Ted, Mrs M Rose, Hatton, Warwick. Fox terrier (wire): Galsul Jolly Ladd, Mr J Galvin, Neath, West Glamorgan. Glen of Imaal terrier: Heonty gold leader, Mr & Mrs H Welch, Bognor Regis.

Irish terrier: Ebenbeezer Ironback at Irvonhill, Mr & Mrs A Barker, Dereham, Norfolk. Kerry blue terrier: Torums Scarf Michael, Mr R Ramsay, Tranmere, Birkenhead. Lakeland Terrier; Ch Rayfos Fire Medicine, Mr & Mrs P Greenway, Newark, Nottinghamshire. Manchester Terrier: Galchvis Millennium falcon, Mr & Mrs Beart, Minehead, Somerset.

Norfolk terrier: brickin just for me, Mrs J Stevenson, Melton Mowbray. Norwich terrier: Elve Stormwizard, Miss D Sexton, Ranby, Retford. Parson Jack Russel terrier: Ch Winnie the Witch of Hardihone, *Mr & Mrs M Allen,* Solihull. Scottish terrier: Ch Mayson paperchase, *Mr & Mrs J Gaskell,* Rotherham. Sealyham terrier: Churclo Concerto, Mr H Horn, Hartlepool.

Skye terrier: Ch Kirkleyditch the crusader of Gallondean, Mrs M Barrass, Queens Ferry, West Lothian. Softcoated wheaten: Ch Stevelyn Blue Suede Shoes of Kariskiye, Mr & Mrs R Tanner, Chelteham. Staffordshire Bull Terrier: Ch Jodels missed a call, Mr & Mrs E Williams, *Hartlepool. Welsh terrier: Saredon Mad Max,* Mrs J Averis, Cheadle, Staffordshire.

West Highland white terrier, Ch Bournehaven birthday guy, Mrs T Squire, Bournemouth. Afghan *hound,* Ch Tejas Conquistador, Mr M Gadsby, Blackpool. Basenji Custos stryke a pose, Mrs B Williams, Leigh, Lancs. Basset Sauve de Brethene: Baronfore Luc of Philabar, Miss S Borrelli, Alvaston, *Derbyshire.*

Basset Griffon Vendeen (grand): Melanter Fetlar, Mrs V Mochan, Ayrshire. Vasset Griffon Vendeen (petit): Ch Debra Xenephon at Ekoz, *Mr & Mrs J Makin, Stirlingshire.* Basset hound: Ch Switherland Blue Jeans, Mr & Mrs P Freer, Derby. Beagle: Ch Dufosee Queen Dee, Mrs V Bradley, Hereford.

Bloodhound: Weatheroak Forceful, Mrs & Mrs J Draisey, Daventry. Borzoi: Ch Colhugh Kalvin Kleine, Mr R Bassett, Brighton, Sussex. Dachsund (long-haired): Frankanwen Sweet Lorraine Taf, Mrs W White, Altringham, Cheshire. Dachshound (miniature long haired): Ch Ralines Royal acclaim, Mrs & Mrs P Lockett, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.

Dachshound (smooth haired): Ch Meganhol Evangelist, *Mrs D Allam, Hereford* Dachshound (miniature *smooth haired):* Shardagang Country Satin, Mr & Mrs J Blackburn-Bennett, Fleetwood, Lancashire. Sachshound (wire haired): Ch Jonena Ritterburg Estralita, Mrs V Skinner, Sheffield. Dachshound (miniature wire haired): Loretto Daniels Dram, Mrs J Hallett, Blackburn.

Deerhound: Terichline Ripple, Mrs C Dowsett, Ripley, Surrey. Elkhound: Ch Kestos Quickstep, Mrs B Stokes, Builth Wells. Finnish Spitz: Korpi Jeaku, Mrs A Preutz-Wildman, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Greyhound: Windspiel Northern Sea Gull, Mrs E Newsham, Rochdale. Hamiltonstovare: I'm No April Fool, I'm at Tedandi, Ms D Cool, Alton, Hampshire. Idizan Hound: Ch Paran Ziggy, *Mrs B Stoneham,* Bristol.

Irish Wolfhound: Ch Saringas Mr Micawber, Miss J Dove, Reading. Otterhound: Ch Teckelgarth Ptolemy, Miss M Lerego, Hereford. Pharaoh Hound: Serafin Phyllada, Miss F Niven, Dumfries. Rhodesian Ridgeback: Champion Ch *Mangwe Uesha. Mrs J Baldwin,* Harrogate, Yorkshire. Saluki: Daxlore Mirabile, Mrs H Graham, Market Drayton, Shropshire. Whippet: Ch Permadon Golden *Cascade, Mr* and *Mrs* R Belshaw, Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

Day 4
Toy and utility group

Affenpinscher: Cransbere Kindamagic at Bodebi, Mr J Turner, Newark. Italian greyhound: Hanjy Hotshot, Mrs V Herbert, Newbury. *Lowchen: Ch Hanovarian Jazzman,* Mr J Richardson, Peterborough. Maltese: Ch Samossas Sweet Surrender, Mrs G Yanez, Cardiff. Miniature pinscher: New Era for Nethan, Mr P McLean, Lanarkshire.

Chow-chow: Ch Charmalde Can Can Charlie with Dawnanda, Mr and Mrs M Butterworth, Nottingham. German spitz: Yabba Dabba Bam Bam at Dramidas, Miss A Barr, Manchester. Japanese shiba inu: *Vormund Moschino, Mrs* E Dunhill, Retford, Notts. Japanese spitz: Ch Hindcross Asa Hoshi over Charney, Mrs S Jones, Farringdon, Oxon. Keeshond: Zandvoort Dream Come True, Mr and Mrs C Brunt, Rotherham. Miniature schnauzer: Ch Risepark Favorite Fella, Mr P Scanlon, Dublin.

Poodle (miniature): Ch Rocksville the Cool Dude at Glynpedr, Mr R Boatwright, Stetchford, Birmingham. Tibetan terrier: Ch Alilah Urory at Waterley, Mr M James, Desborough, Northants. Schnauzer: Ch Khinjan Kaskinen at Miccosukees, Mrs H Lockyer, Waltham Abbey, Essex. *Shar Pei:* Kyushu Nuttin to say, Mr and Mrs A Hudson, Stoke on Trent.

Chihuahua (smooth): Ch Dachidas Dancing Master at Nikitos, Mrs B Sutton, Wantage, Oxon. Chinese crested dog: Chinois Chicago Bay, Mr C Carter, Purley, Surrey. English toy terrier: Ch Amalek You Has Jazz, Mrs M Wilson, Okehampton, Devon. Pug: Ch Ffain Hawks Eye, Mrs P MacDonald, Edinburgh. *Boston terrier: Wildax Top Gun, Mr & Mrs F* Wildman, Liverpool.

Bulldog: Ch Korimia the Riddler by Britishpride, Mrs M Goodwin, Chipping Norton, Oxon. Canaan dog: The Lion of Judha at Anacan, Mrs E Minto, Feltham, Middlesex. Dalmatian: Ch Tommy Brock, Mrs C Gatford, Hornchurch, Essex.

French bulldog: Buttergate Apollo, Mrs A Jenkins, Swindon. Poodle (standard): Ch Vicmars Party Leader, Mrs S Pine-Hayes, Horsham, West Sussex. Shihtzu: Ch Jardhu the Republican, Mr & Mrs J Grugan, Ayrshire. *Tibetan spaniel: Ch Tibanchi Dashing Debo*nair, Mrs K Sheppard, Preston. Bichon Frise: Ch Roxara He drives you wild, Mrs A Halliwell, Southampton. Griffons Bruxellis: Ch Dozmare, distinctive, Mr G Lee, Walsall. Japanese Chin: Ch Vival Shuji Tamura, Mrs E Tappenden, Salisbury. Pomeranian: Ch Cradarr, military tattoo, Mrs P Wallace, Sheffield.

Australian Silky Terrier: Amrons, T J Bear Extordinaire, *Mr & Mrs Sharp,* Birmingham. King Charles Spaniel: Ch Maibee Flashman, Miss S Walters, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Pekinese: Ch Kushans Mad About The Boy, Mrs A Everitt, Banbury, Oxon. Japanese Akita: Ch Redwitch Dancin In The Dark, Mr & Mrs D Killilea, Knottingley, West Yorkshire. Lhasa Apso: Ch Saxonsprings Tradition, Mr K Woosnam, Hammersmith, West London. Schipperke: Aradet Aida, Miss M Deats, Thetford, Norfolk.

Poodle (Toy): Tuttlebees Witchcraft, Mrs A Corish, Thatcham, Berkshire. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel: Ch Ricksbury Royal Legend, Mr B Rix, North Skelton, Cleveland. Chihuahua (Long Coat): Ch Pattonia Shoshannah, Mr N Farrugia, London. Papillon: Ch Graycaz Othello, Mrs C Lee-Farnsworth, Manchester. Yorkshire Terrier: Patajohn Desire, Mrs P Allington, Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.O. Brookes and Miss M.E. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Albert Brookes, of Camelon Road, Falkirk, and Melanie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Roberts, of Chelsea and Norfolk.

Mr C.S. Davidson and Miss C.J. Nicolls
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of the late Mr Samuel Davidson and *of Mrs Davidson, of Southleigh,* Devon, and Claire, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Nicolls, of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr T.P. Fairfax and Miss M. Borneman
The engagement is announced between Tom, son of the Hon Peregrine and Mrs Fairfax, of Mindrum, Northumberland, and Miki, daughter of Mr Peter Borneman, of Weybridge, Surrey, and of the late Mrs Nigel Philcox, *of Rotherfield, Sussex.*

Mr A.S. Hearder and Miss M.K. Stephens
The engagement is announced between Alex, younger son of the late Professor Harry Hearder and of Mrs Anna Hearder, of Highgate, London, and Marianne, daughter of Judge Martin Stephens, QC, *and Mrs Tricia* Stephens, of Cardiff.

Mr J.P. Jason and Miss P.M.A. Riley
The *engagement* is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Jason, and Philippa, daughter of Mr Martin Riley and Mrs David Dobell.

Mr J.C. Nield and Miss V.P. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Bernard Nield, of Howden, East Yorkshire, and Veryan, daughter of Commander and Mrs Russell Johnson, of Oxen Park, Cumbria.

Mr J. Thomas and Miss E.J. Hanbury
The engagement is announced between Justin, eldest son of the late Mr David Thomas and of Mrs Richard Belloc-Lowndes, of Ledbury, Herefordshire, and Emma, eldest *daughter* of Mr and Mrs Ben Hanbury, of Cowlinge, Newmarket, Suffolk.

Mr K.M. Videlo and Miss S.R. Walker
The engagement is announced between Keith Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs Donald Videlo, *of Farnborough, Hampshire, and* Stephanie Ruth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Walker, of Guildford, Surrey.

Marriages

Mr H. Moorehead and Miss C.T.W. Chan
The marriage of Henry, second son of Mr Alexander Moorehead and the late Mrs Louise Moorehead, of Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland, and Wendy, youngest daughter of *Mrs Fung Suen Chan and the late* Mr Keng Ching Chan, of Shatin, Hong Kong, was celebrated by the Revd Donald Mentch and the Revd Simon Stokes on Saturday, February 20, 1999, at St John's, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Mr D.T. Sterrett and Miss N-J. Taylor
The marriage took place quietly in London, on March 12, between Mr David Sterrett and Miss Nicola-Jane Taylor.

Charles Beattie, QC

A memorial service for Charles Noel Beattie, QC, will be held in Lincoln's *Inn* Chapel on Thursday, April 15, 1999, at 5.00pm.

Eton Party

Mr P.S.H. Lawrence's
Mr P.S.H. Lawrence's old boys entertained their Tutor and his wife at a drinks party on March 10 at the *Institution of Civil Engineers.*

Birthdays today

Lord Alton of Liverpool, 48; Mr Alexander Bernstein, former chairman, Granada Group, 63; Dr David Bryer, director, Oxfam, 55; Miss Isobel *Buchanan, soprano,* 45; Mr P.J. Butler, former senior partner, KPMG Peat Marwick, 70; Lord Constantine of Stanmore, 89; Mr Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, 59; Professor Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith, architect, 72; Mr John Duttine, actor, 51; the Right Rev John Gibbs, former *Bishop of Coventry, 82; Professor* John Gillingham, neurologist, 83; Ms Sunetra Gupta, author, 34; Earl Haig, 81; Mrs Deirdre Hutton, chairman, Scottish Consumer Council, 50; Sir Leonard Knowles, former Chief Justice of the Bahamas, 83; Sir John Lacy, former general director of party campaign*ing, Conservative Central Office,* 71; Mr Mike Love, singer (The Beach Boys), 55; Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, 75; Professor Joan Mitchell, economist, 79; Mr Michael Moore, former chairman, NSPCC, 63; Mr Robert Nye, novelist and poet, 60; Mr Ben Okri, author, 40; Sir Philip Powell, CH, architect, 78; Lord Rendlesham, 84; The Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, Bishop of Winchester, 56; Mr Gavin Stamp, architectural historian and writer, 51; Sir Roger Tomkys, Master, Pembroke College, Cambridge, 62; Mr David Wall, a former director, Royal Academy of Dancing, 53.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Andrew Jackson, general, 7th American President 1829-37, Waxhaw, Carolina, 1767; William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne, Prime Minister 1834 and 1835-41, London, 1779.

DEATHS: Julius Caesar, assassinated, Rome, 44BC; *Sir* Henry Bessemer, engineer, inventor, steel manufacturer, London, 1898; Aristotle Onassis, shipping magnate, Paris, 1975; Dame Rebecca West, writer, London, 1983.

The Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first all-professional baseball team, 1869.

A bomb planted by Fenians exploded in the offices of *The Times,* Queen Victoria Street, London, 1883.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

People who want to be rich fall into all sorts of temptations and traps. They are caught by foolish and harmful desires that drag them down and destroy them. 1 Timothy 6.9 (CEV).

BIRTHS

ANDERSEN/TATTON-BROWN - On March 11th 1999 to Robert and Olivia, a daughter, Octavia.

COOPER - On 7th March to Georgie (née Hubber) and Simon, a son, Edward William, a brother for Thomas.

CRAMSIE On March 11th 1999 to Petra (Née Fergusson) and Paddy a daughter Hope Rose Penelope.

DOBBS - On 3rd March, to Kate and Matthew, a son, Richard William Frederick.

GUINNESS - On March 6th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Claire (née Perry) and Ewan, a daughter, Kirsty Elizabeth, a sister for Aidan.

GURNEY - On March 8th 1999 to *Samantha (née Mahood)* and Robert, a daughter, Jemima Skye.

ROUGIER - On March 9th 1999 to Natasha (née Butterfill) and Toby, a son, Charles Frederick (Charlie).

VAN DER EB - On March 11th 1999 in Christchurch NZ, to Ruth (née Waters) and Laurence, a daughter Sophie Marguerite Edith.

DEATHS

BEVAN - Lt. Col. William Silvanus Bevan O.B.E. aged 85 years. Passed away suddenly on March 11th 1999. Dearly loved husband of the late Muran and the late Jill. Father of Charles and Alice and a devoted grandfather. Stepfather to Richard, Russell and Elaine. *Private* Cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at All Saints Church, Milford-on-Sea on Friday, March 19th at 12 noon. *Family flowers only,* donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign, c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, SO41 0DN.

BOWSER - On 11th March 1999, Gerald Charles Mather Bowser, Lt Col. Late of the Royal Sussex Regiment. Husband of the late Antoinette Bowser (née Budd) and husband of, Susan Honora Bowser. Funeral Service at Wilmington Parish Church on *Friday* 19th March 1999 at 2 15 pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers but donations if wished to the Royal Sussex *Regimental Association* Welfare Fund, c/o Roussillon Barracks Chichester

DEATHS

CORBET-MILWARD - Of Upton upon Severn, suddenly in hospital on March 9th. Commander Roger Corbet-Milward R.N. 1915-1999. The beloved husband of Erna and a much loved father and grandfather. Funeral service at Queenhill Parish Church on Saturday March 20th at 2.30 pm. Flowers or donations for The King George V Fund for Sailors may be sent to Malcolm J Presland Funeral Directors, 19 High Street, Upton upon Severn, Worcs. WR8 0HJ.

DRAGE - Peggy M, formerly Hart-Leverton and Wachman, much loved wife of Sydney, mother of Peter, Gay and Nicholas and beloved grandmother, peacefully on 12th March 1999. Service at Eastbourne Crematorium, Hide Hollow, Langley, at 3.15 pm on Thursday 18th March. No flowers please. Donations if wished to St Michael's Hospice, Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards-on-Sea.

GARRETT-KERR (Hamilton) Virginia daughter of the late A.G. Garrett of Uckfield nr Maresfield *Sussex beloved mother of* Susannah Garrett-Kerr and adored consort of Hugh Davidson. Funeral at Bywell, St. Andrews Church Northumberland at 2.30 pm on Monday 15th March. No flowers. Donations to Imperial Cancer Fund 61 Grainger Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne. No Dark Clothes or Ties.

GRACE - Margery MB, BCH. JP, aged 93 years of Amberley, Stroud, peacefully on 11th March. A much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral *service* at Amberley Parish Church on Monday 22nd *March* at 12 noon followed by cremation. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent to the British Red Cross c/o Philip Ford & Son Funeral Directors, Dirleton House, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Glos.

HAMSON - Sheila, retired Matron RNTNE Hospital died 4th March 1999. Funeral Chichester *Crematorium, Friday 19th* March at 3.00pm.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

HOPE Robert Cyprian known as Robin on Thursday March 11th, aged 83, with great courage. Much loved husband of Roona and devoted father of Nellie, Caroline and Amanda. Much loved Grandpa. Late *of the Indian Civil Service.* Thanks giving service Friday 19th March at 3 pm St. Mary Magdalen, Castleton, Sherborne. Family flowers only but donations to the Dorset McMillan Nursing Foundation. All enquiries to Norman Brister 100 Lenthay Road, Sherborne. 01935 812847

JACKSON - On 12 March, General Sir William Godfrey Fothergill *Jackson GBE, KCB, MC,* formerly Quartermaster General of the Army, and Governor and Commander in Chief of Gibraltar, age 81, peacefully after a short *final illness* stoically borne. Adored husband of Joan, father of Nigel and Rosemary, father-in-law of Robert, and grandfather *of John and Kitty.* Small funeral for family and friends to be held at Wilcot Church, Wilts on Friday 19th March at 1400. Family flowers only please. *Details of Service of* Thanksgiving will be announced in due course.

JERRAM - At Torbay Hospital on 9th March 1999, John aged 84 years, beloved father of Richard. The funeral service to take place on Thursday 18th March 1999 12.30pm at Exeter Crematorium, Floral tributes may be sent c/o Co-Operative Funeral Service, Albany Street, Newton Abbot, Devon.

JOHNSON - On March 9th, suddenly at home, Barbara, aged 69. Widow of the late Kenneth. A *much loved mother and* sister. Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church, Goudhurst, Kent on Friday March 19th at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, payable to Inner Wheel Club of Cranbrook and Hawkhurst c/o J Perigoe & Son, Bank Street, Cranbrook TN17 3EF. Tel: 01580 713636.

KISIELEWSKA DUNBAR. - SEE ALSO O'DONNELL. On 12th March 1999 aged 79, Erica, widow of Józef Kisielewski, mother of Luke and Pawel. Family Funeral. Memorial Mass to be announced.

LAWRIE - Audrey, dear wife of Gordon, on 11th March 1999 aged 77. Cremation private. No flowers. Donations if wished to Wood Green Animal Shelters tel: 0181-888 2351.

MAITLAND - Joan Tempe (née Ryder) on 10th March 1999 at St Luke's Nursing Home, Headington, aged 96. Formerly of Pullen's End Cottage, Headington. Widow of Francis E. Maitland. Cremation on Friday 19th March at the Oxford Crematorium at 2.00pm. Enquiries to Reeves & Pain, 288, Abingdon Road, Oxford. 01865 242529.

NOVIS - On 12th March 1999, peacefully in hospital. Edith Mary Frances Novis aged 90 years. Wife of the late Lt. Col. A.L. Novis *M.C.,* devoted mother of *Richard, Sue* and *Jill* and much loved grandmother. Service of Thanksgiving at 11.30 am on Friday 19th March 1999 at St Mary's Church, Meysey, Hampton, Gloucestershire. No flowers. Any donations to Fairford Cottage Hospital c/o A. Slade & Son, Ridgeway House, Dyer *Street, Cirencester, Glos.*

O'DONNELL. Erica, Founder of the Study Centre for the History of Fine and Decorative Arts, see KISIELEWSKA DUNBAR

TETLEY - SIR HERBERT died peacefully on 12th March aged 90. Service and cremation at Randalls Park, Leatherhead, *Surrey* at 3pm on Friday 19th March. Family flowers, but donations if desired to Save The Children. Enquiries to FREDK. W. Paine. 0181 399 2060

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BEATTIE - A Memorial Service for Charles Noel Beattie QC will be held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Thursday 15th April 1999 at 5.00 pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

HERIOT - A.J. FRCS, 14th March 1995. Remembering you with love. Cynthia, Jenny and Sandy.

BIRTHDAYS

EMILY MARIE GOUCHER The most gorgeous little girl in the world. Happy 1st Birthday, with lots of love, always Daddy XXXX

WANTED

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE

FOR SALE

UK HOLIDAYS

WINTER SPORTS

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

FLATSHARE

NANNIES & DOMESTIC

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY







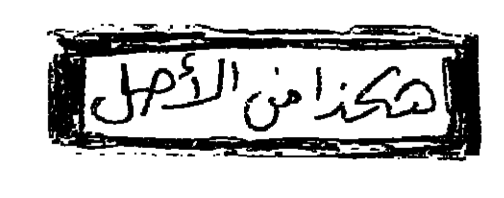


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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS



OBITUARIES

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM JACKSON

General Sir William Jackson, GBE, KCB, OBE, MC and Bar, soldier, military historian and former Governor of Gibraltar, died on March 12 aged 81. He was born on August 28, 1917.

In a career that lasted until well past the normal retiring age, Bill Jackson was variously a fighting soldier, military historian, Quartermaster-General of the Army and, at a time when most men are happy enough for a sinecure, a wise Governor of Gibraltar during a testing period, 1978-82. His tenure included the months of the Falklands conflict, when the usual tensions between Britain and Spain over the Rock were considerably increased by the outbreak of hostilities over another territory whose inhabitants were determined to remain British. Jackson keenly enjoyed the complexity of such a situation, and was acutely aware of the ambivalencies of the cat-and-mouse game which the British had to play with their Spanish Nato allies.

As a fighting Sapper in the Second World War Jackson had seldom been far from the action, as attested by his two MCs, awarded in the Norwegian and Italian campaigns. He had also served in North Africa, and during the latter part of the war he went out to the Far East. In 1958 he was to return to Malaya, where he was deeply involved in anti-terrorist operations. He had by that time become established as a staff officer of the highest class, and his intellect was later to make him a fine chronicler of military campaigns, in many of which he had fought personally.

William Godfrey Fothergill Jackson was the son of a colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was educated at Shrewsbury School, from where he went to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. There he won the King's Medal as the outstanding scholar of the year, and later he went to King's College, Cambridge. He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1937.

After the outbreak of war he took part in the British Army's first major campaign in Norway in the spring of 1940. He was part of a force which landed at Andalsnes as the southern prong of an attack on German-occupied Trondheim. But Winston Churchill, who was then First Lord of the Admiralty, soon perceived that both this and a northern force launched from Namsos were in imminent peril from counter-attacks, and evacuation was ordered.



General Sir William Jackson in the 1970s, before he became Governor of Gibraltar

Jackson commanded the Sapper contingent in the withdrawal to Andalsnes, which was charged with blowing up railway lines and bridges in the path of the advancing Germans. For his gallantry and astute conduct of his unit in this operation — during which he was wounded — Jackson was awarded an immediate MC.

He then served in Tunisia under Eisenhower and Alexander. During the Italian campaign he was back in command of a unit, and it was as a major, leading an Engineer Field Squadron, that he gained the Bar to his MC — and was wounded twice more.

In the winter of 1943 it was his squadron that bridged the Volturno River to the north of Naples, and enabled the allies to advance to the Gustav Line.

Jackson remained in Italy until the breakthrough to the Gothic Line north of Florence in the summer of 1944, but in 1945 he was sent out to the Far East. There he took part in the reoccupation of Singapore and in the delicate operations in Indonesia and Malaya, in which the Japanese, not having been defeated on the battlefield there, made themselves difficult prisoners. The nascent nationalist movements were not at all keen on seeing their old colonial masters back.

On his return to Britain, Jackson joined the directing staff at the Staff College, and later was appointed an instructor at Sandhurst. He was promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1958 and commanded the Gurkha Engineers in Malaya from 1958 to 1960, the last years of the highly successful counter-insurgency campaign.

With a now excellent reputation as a staff offficer, he returned to the Staff College as a colonel in 1961, but the next year he was promoted brigadier and made deputy director of staff duties at the War Office. He held this appointment until 1964, when he attended the Imperial Defence College. In 1966 he was promoted major-general and organised the Chief of the Defence Staff's annual exercise, meticulously thinking of everything, even down to the provision of golf clubs for those who had forgotten to bring their own.

In 1971, as a lieutenant-general, he was appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command. In 1973 he was promoted general on assuming the post of Quartermaster-General, his final appointment, which he held until 1976.

He was Colonel-Commandant, Royal Engineers, 1971-81; Gurkha Engineers, 1971-76; and Royal Army Ordnance Corps, 1973-78. He was appointed OBE in 1958, created KCB in 1971 and created GBE in 1975.

His appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar called on his knowledge and skill as both soldier and historian. Jackson had a profound understanding of the history of the Rock, and continued to write to the press on behalf of its inhabitants long after his appointment was over.

When the Falklands war broke out in the spring of 1982 and his usually quiet harbour was suddenly packed with ships refuelling and resupplying on their way to the South Atlantic, he revelled in the quickening of tempo. He was particularly good at the business of trying to blind Spanish Intelligence — which was relaying all its findings to Argentina — about the nature and strength of the British reinforcement.

Bill Jackson had a formidable intellect and an extraordinary capacity for work. He drove himself just as hard as he drove his staff, yet always found time for his many other interests, such as fly-fishing. He was twice winner of the Trench Gascoigne Gold Medal of the Royal United Services Institute and was a frequent contributor to Service journals. He also wrote book reviews and many obituary notices for *The Times*. His style was terse, even dry, but always accurate.

His book *The Battle for Italy* (1957) became a standard work, and — like *The Battle for Rome* (1969) and *Alexander of Tunis as Military Commander* (1971) — owed much to his own observation. But he ranged widely across wartime operations and the postwar strategic scene. *The Alternative Third World War: 1985-2035* (1987) contained his liveliest speculations, ranging from the collapse of Nato, to a war between the US and its Latin American neighbours.

Despite an austere manner which made it difficult for him to appear relaxed, he was an excellent host and a warm friend. No one who had cause to consult him at any time during his service could complain that he came away without a sympathetic hearing and the best of advice. The outstanding student of his generation at Woolwich, Jackson went on to prove himself the outstanding Sapper of his time.

William Jackson married Joan Mary Buesden in 1946. She survives him, along with their son and daughter.

SIR EMMANUEL KAYE

Sir Emmanuel Kaye, CBE, industrialist, died on February 28 aged 84. He was born on November 29, 1914.

EMMANUEL KAYE did something very rare in postwar Britain: he founded a successful engineering firm. Lansing Bagnall went on to become the largest company of its kind in Europe. The historian of Britain's industrial decline, Correlli Barnett, called it "an absolutely outstanding achievement", the reverse of the usual dismal story.

Unlike many British inventors and innovators, Kaye knew how to bring his ideas to market in a realised physical form and in financially viable shape. He had an incisive mind, and could strip away inessentials to reach the core of a problem. He never stopped thinking of ways to improve his business, as executives who received his 7 am Sunday telephone calls will testify. He was a man quite without small talk, and could seem so remote as to be frightening, yet he was kind and generous.

Emmanuel Kaye was educated at Richmond Hill School, which he left at 15 to support his widowed mother. Later he attended night classes at Twickenham Technical College to study engineering. He and his colleague John Sharp founded a business, J E Shay Ltd to supply metal components to larger companies. They went on to buy a bankrupt firm and turn it into Lansing Bagnall, making electric forklift trucks. In February 1946 they purchased a new site, in Basingstoke, and were later to become the town's largest employer. Kaye married Elizabeth Cutler the following August.

It was a black time for business, which faced both shortages of material and pettifogging regulations under the postwar Labour administration. The shortage of steel led the Ministry of Supply to cancel their building licence, and the partners spent Christmas Day 1947 writing a new application.

By product and business innovation, Lansing Bagnall became the biggest manufacturer of forklift trucks in Europe. John Sharp died in 1965, but Kaye carried on expanding the business until there were nine overseas companies, 40 worldwide distributors and a peak total of 7,000 employees. In 1989 he sold out to the German firm of Linde.

Though 75, he did not retire. In 1977 he had initiated a scheme to set up young entrepreneurs in business, and Kaye Enterprises, founded in 1989, went on to back fledgelings in areas as diverse as steel stockholding, wholesale stationery, retirement homes and computer software.

He was a passionate opponent of Britain joining the single currency and a founder member of Business for Sterling in 1998. He served on many CBI committees from 1974 to 1992.

His devotion to public service was also apparent in his work on many other committees, such as the Council of Industry for Management Education (1970- 87) and the Reviewing Committee on Export of Works of Art (1977-80).

He made many charitable bequests in this country and in Israel, most of them anonymous. He funded a room in the National Portrait Gallery (which contains a fine portrait of him by Paul Brason), and was a trustee of Glyndebourne from 1977 to 1984. Perhaps surprisingly, he was a devotee of alternative medicine, being vice-president of the Natural Medicines Society and patron of the British Homoeopathic Association. He also founded the Thrombosis Research Institute in 1981.

He was appointed CBE in 1967 and received his knighthood in 1974. He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

WILLIAM MATHIESON

William Mathieson, CB, CMG, MBE (Mil), former Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Overseas Development, died on February 12 aged 82. He was born on February 22, 1916.

WILLIAM MATHIESON devoted most of his working life to African affairs at the Colonial Office and then to the organisation of aid programmes. After retiring from the Civil Service in 1975, he spent 15 vigorous years as a consultant promoting development overseas.

The son of a Church of Scotland minister, William Allan Cunningham Mathieson was born in Scone, Perthshire. He won scholarships to Dundee High School and Edinburgh University, where he took a first in classics. After being awarded the senior King's Scholarship at King's College, Cambridge, in 1938, he joined the Colonial Office.

As a major in the Royal Artillery he was responsible for planning the firing for the Rhine-crossing campaign and took part in the liberation of Belgium. He was appointed MBE (Mil) in 1945.

Back at the Colonial Office, he was appointed a counsellor to the British Mission at the UN from 1951 to 1954. He then took up duties as head of the East African department, where he attracted the attention of several governors. Sir Evelyn Baring, then Governor of Kenya, secured his secondment to Nairobi in 1958 as Minister of Education, Labour and Lands to structure and supervise the imminent transition to independence.

In 1961, Sir Andrew Cohen invited Mathieson to join what became the Ministry of Overseas Development, under Barbara Castle. Cohen was substantially proportioned, and the department quickly became known within the Civil Service as the Elephant and Castle. But they were an effective team, establishing aid programmes to former colonies in Africa and South-East Asia.

Faced with intransigence during negotiations, Mathieson could be relied on to make a joke or turn the tables. He carried a small bag of marbles with him, and once offered some to another delegate who he thought must have lost his.

After retirement he was adviser to a number of agencies under the aegis of the World Bank, the UN Development Programme and the Rockefeller Foundation, which were increasingly focusing on education, research and fieldwork in agriculture and health. He managed to cajole contributing nations into giving more generously than they might have intended, especially to research, disease control and programmes to increase agricultural yields.

He was appointed CMG in 1955 and CB in 1970. He was an honorary fellow of Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. His last years were given to extensive travel, voluminous reading and research into early plant-hunters in the Americas and Asia. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1946, and by their two sons.

JAKI BYARD

Jaki Byard, jazz pianist, was shot dead in New York on February 11 aged 76. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on June 15, 1922.

THE consummate ease with which Jaki Byard was able to bring to life virtually all styles of jazz piano, from ragtime to the avant garde, won him countless admirers during more than half a century as one of the most distinguished pianists in jazz. He became best known for his work in the 1960s with Charles Mingus, joining the iconoclastic bassist in a series of bands that included such jazz revolutionaries as Roland Kirk, Eric Dolphy and Booker Ervin.

His stylistic breadth and openness to new thinking made him an ideal participant in Mingus's experiments, and it is largely due to Byard that much of the Mingus canon survives, since the bassist taught his musicians their parts by singing them. Byard wrote down what they had played before it was forgotten, claiming it was for his own reference, but surreptitiously distributing parts to colleagues.

Despite a mischievous sense of humour, and the acute ear of a born parodist, Byard was no superficial musician, and the integrity of his exploration of the jazz keyboard tradition won over the most hard-bitten of critics, his fellow musicians. Enthusiasts for his playing included pianists as varied as Teddy Wilson and the avant garde composer Paul Bley, and he was the automatic choice to deputise for Duke Ellington during Ellington's final illness.

Hearing one of Byard's solo recitals, Bley wrote: "He can play the piano the way people have for the last forty years, and he gets very close to how it was actually done.". And it was Byard's command of the subtlest nuances of the keyboard that made him a hugely influential teacher, first at the New England Conservatory, which he joined in 1969, and then at a range of other colleges, including the Brooklyn Conservatory and the Hartford School of Music. He taught at the Manhattan School of Music until his death.

John A. Byard Jr began his own musical education in a household full of instruments. His father played in a brass band, and his grandmother had been a pianist for silent movies, so he began piano lessons himself at an early age. He studied with a teacher called Grace Johnson Brown, who gave him a good grounding in the classics, before the Depression put an end to his lessons in 1932.

Nevertheless, his father encouraged Byard to play trumpet (and later trombone and tenor sax) in his marching band, and also to listen to jazz on the radio. This fuelled an interest that grew when Byard became old enough to hear the great swing orchestras of Chick Webb, Fletcher Henderson and Jimmie Lunceford as they visited his local theatre. From the age of 16 he began to play at an after-hours club with several members of these bands, nicknaming the venue the Saxtrum club: sax-trumpet-drums.

On medical advice, Byard stopped playing trumpet and focused on piano, but when he was conscripted into the Army in 1941 he ended up specialising on trombone alongside the pioneer modern jazz drummer Kenny Clarke. After demobilisation, he returned to Boston to study, playing for short spells with the violinist Ray Perry and the saxophonist Earl Bostic, before ending up as a regular pianist for the trumpeter Herb Pomeroy.



Byard was a master of every kind of jazz on the piano

Boston in the late 1940s was a hotbed of jazz experimentation, and there Byard played with the cutting-edge saxophonists Sam Rivers and Charlie Mariano before temporarily concentrating on saxophone himself with Pomeroy's Jazz Workshop Orchestra. Back on piano, he moved to New York and ended up in 1960 working with the experimental trumpeter Don Ellis, who encouraged him to play for Charles Mingus at the Showplace Club.

He did not join Mingus, with whom he replaced Horace Parlan, until 1962, but he proved the ideal pianist to accommodate the unorthodox playing of Mingus's saxophonist and clarinettist Eric Dolphy, for whom Byard revoiced the standard chords of his accompaniments, pioneering a modern jazz technique that is still in use.

Just before joining Mingus, Byard made a set of discs for the Prestige label that remain among the best examples of his playing, in particular the album *Out Front!*, on which Booker Ervin is an outstanding soloist.

Byard had the good fortune to be in Mingus's band during one of its most creative and comprehensively recorded periods, which assured his reputation and drew him into further recording and solo projects, but particularly into teaching. For much of the 1970s, he kept a low profile, though with regular appearances at New York clubs. Then he formed the first of a series of big bands, the Apollo Stompers, which he continued to lead on and off for some years.

Most recently, in addition to his 1991 disc in a series of piano recitals recorded at the Maybeck Hall in Berkeley — one of the most audaciously avant garde of a predominantly mainstream collection — he formed a duo with the saxophonist Michael Marcus. Using reed instruments such as the stritch and manzello, and with a cavalier attitude to pitch, Marcus continued the line of experimentation of Byard's former colleagues Roland Kirk and Eric Dolphy, and he proved the ideal foil for Byard's blend of tradition-based technique and exploratory imagination. Their album *This Happening* was widely acclaimed, and a new album is due for release.

Byard was found shot in the head by a single bullet at his home in Queens. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

ALAN HARDY

Alan Hardy, horticulturist and plantsman, died on February 4 aged 72. He was born on April 4, 1926.

ALAN HARDY had a lifelong interest in garden plants, which probably began at the age of seven when a well-known daffodil grower gave him some bulbs. In later life he was particularly respected for his knowledge of many groups of hardy garden plants, ranging from daffodils and snowdrops through chrysanthemums to rhododendrons.

His garden, Sandling Park, at Hythe, Kent, which he took over from his father along with the family farm, contained a major collection of outstanding plants, but was wrecked by the great storms of 1987 and 1990. Each time he tackled the devastation with great energy, bringing the gardens back to the exemplary standard for which they were renowned.

Sandling Park was developed by four generations of the Hardy family. Laurence Hardy started it in 1897. He saw the potential for a woodland garden, and planted the first rhododendron there in 1900: the well-known Hardy hybrid "Cynthia". Today the garden is noted for its woodland plants, many of which originated in seeds from plants in the wild. The garden has a large collection of rhododendrons, some bred by Hardy's father, Arthur. Hardy also hybridised rhododendrons and one of the results, named "Arthur Hardy", deservedly gained an award of merit when exhibited at Chelsea in 1986. Hardy took great delight in exhibiting at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower shows in Westminster, and was awarded the Loder Rhododendron Cup in 1978. Many other important prizes followed.

He devoted a great deal of time and energy to the society's floral committees, and was much involved in judging exhibits, as well as plants in the trials at the society's garden at Wisley in Surrey. The contribution he made to the society's publication *Award of Garden Merit Plants*, which lists all the plants that have been given this award for outstanding garden value, demonstrated his extensive knowledge and judgment.

In 1993 the RHS awarded Hardy its highest accolade, the Victoria Medal of Honour, for his contribution to horticulture, and so he joined a small group of husbands and wives who both hold that award, as his wife Carolyn had received the medal in 1989. She survives him, along with their two daughters.

Latest wills

The 7th Baron Newborough, of Rug Corwen, Denbighshire, left estate valued at £20,527,940 net.

Brigadier Roderick **Heathcoat Amory**, of Allington, Chippenham, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £1,063,754 net.

Lady Porritt, of London SW13, left estate valued at £449,050 net.

Helen, Baroness Roborough, of Roborough, Devon, left estate valued at £616,400 net.

Margaret Winifred **Hole**, of East Grinstead, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,052,860 net.

She left £30,000 to St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley; £1,000 to restoration fund, St Swithin's Church, East Grinstead.

William **Andrews**, of Llandewi, Rhydderch, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, left estate valued at £3,452,937 net.

Phyllis Gwendoline **Symonds**, of Ipswich, left estate valued at £2,014,423 net.

Howard **Cragg**, solicitor, of Brighton, left estate valued at £2,042,903 net.

He left shares in the remainder of his estate to RNLI, Salvation Army and Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

Joan **Asch**, of Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,041,177 net.

Reginald Joseph **Currey**, of Brighton, East Sussex, left estate valued at £604,800 net.

Martin Charles **De Roemer**, of Tilford, Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,305,568 net.

Joyce Lilian **Fisher**, of Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,497,213 net.

She left £1,000 to the National Trust and to Bournemouth Blind Aid Society, plus shares in her residuary estate to Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association, Guide Dogs for the Blind, British Heart Foundation, NSPCC, Spastics Society, British Red Cross, RNIB, Macmillan Cancer Trust and RNLI.

Gordon Eric **Goodhew**, of Ascot, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,807,060 net.

Andreas (commonly known as Andrew) **Goeritz**, of London, W1, left estate valued at £1,424,437 net.

Lois Eunice **Grigg**, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,129,276 net.

Harold **Hebblethwaite**, of Dore, Sheffield, left estate valued at £1,630,378 net.

He left £5,000 to Weston Park Hospital NHS Trust.

Maurice **Lass**, of London NW6, left estate valued at £1,428,531 net.

He left his residuary estate in trust for Jewish Care.

Henry **Lewis**, of Woodford Green, Essex, left estate valued at £1,050,410 net.

Wallace **Newnham**, of Claverdon, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £1,116,207 net.

Maire **Pottinger**, of Willenhall, West Midlands, left estate valued at £1,087,355 net.

Joyce Evelyn **Peal**, of Christchurch, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,181,926 net.

She left shares in her estate to RNLI, RSPCA, RNIB, Salvation Army, Barnardo's, Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Scope.

James Martin **Puddle**, of Twickenham, Middlesex, left estate valued at £1,712,248 net.

Cecilia Mary **Sutcliffe**, of Great Broughton, Middlesbrough, left estate valued at £1,478,998 net.

She left £5,000 to North Yorkshire branch, British Red Cross, and to South Tees branch, NSPCC; £2,000 to Sue Ryder Foundation; and £1,000 to Gardeners' Benevolent Society and to DGAA Homelife.

ON THIS DAY

March 15, 1930

After the spectacular space triumphs of recent times, the discovery, more than 60 years ago, of a not-very-visible planet (Pluto) may seem pretty small beer, but it gave astronomers plenty to talk about at the time.

THE NEW PLANET

NEW YORK, March 14

The discovery of a new planet beyond Neptune was the result of 25 years' systematic search by the staff of the Lowell Obervatory at Flagstaff, Arizona, which began when Dr Percival Lowell, the founder of the Observatory, calculated that irregularities in the movements of Neptune indicated the presence of a body beyond that planet. A search of the skies by photograph was started then in accordance with Dr Lowell's calculations, and has continued to this day.

Early last year, according to the announcement made by the Observatory yesterday, the Lawrence Lowell telescope, a highly efficient special instrument for the search, was put in operation. Some weeks ago (January 21) an object was detected by telescopic photography on a plate, which has since been carefully followed. It has been observed photographically with the large Lowell reflector by Mr C. O. Lampland, and it has been observed visually with the large refractor by various members of the staff. All the observations indicate that the object is the one which Dr Lowell saw mathematically. Two years before his death Dr Lowell published his "Memoir on a Trans-Neptunian Planet", in which he called the body yet to be discovered "Planet X." Referring to one of his mathematical calculations, he wrote, "It indicates the existence of an unknown body with a mass between those of Neptune and of the Earth, with a visibility of 12-13 magnitude, according to the albedo, and a disk of more than one second in diameter."

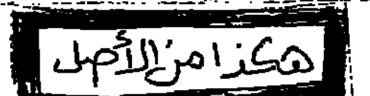
The Harvard astronomers believe that because of its tremendous distance from the Sun it receives the light of the Sun with a brilliancy at most hardly exceeding that of moonlight, and they put the time it takes to go round the Sun at not less than 330 years.

The distance of Planet X from the Sun has been estimated at Flagstaff as 45 times the distance of the Earth from the Sun, or 4,185,000,000 miles. It will be at least a month before the actual size and mass of the planet can be roughly determined, and probably several months before an accurate measurement of its dimensions may be had.

Yesterday — when the announcement was made of the discovery of the planet which Dr Lowell had predicted would be found — was the birthday of the late astronomer.

The report from Lowell University of the discovery of a new planet was received with interest by astronomers in this country yesterday, and though confirmation cannot be obtained yet either from old photographs or by new observations at English observatories, there is a general tendency to accept the news as authentic, since it agrees with predictions already made and based on the disturbance of the planet Uranus, and in a lesser degree that of Neptune.

Observation is the more difficult because the planet is reported to be in a very thick part of the Milky Way. Sir Frank Dyson, the Astronomer Royal, said yesterday that its existence had been suspected for some time, having been deduced chiefly from the movements of Uranus.



NEWS

Lorry tax could cost 50,000 jobs

■ British industry today delivers a severe post-Budget warning to the Government that its transport taxation policies could cost 50,000 jobs in three years and drive haulage companies abroad.

The country's leading industrial organisations have united to condemn Gordon Brown's big increases in fuel costs and taxes on commercial vehicles .... Page 1

Murdered girl was 'wonderful daughter'

■ The distraught parents of a murdered 17-year-old beautician, whose body was discovered in woodland on the edge of a Leicestershire village, told yesterday of the loss of a "wonderful" daughter. Police believe Rebecca Groves was sexually assaulted and strangled as she walked home from a pub in the village of Thringstone .... Pages 1, 3

Boxing draw furore

American commentators joined the thousands of British boxing fans who made the trip to New York in denouncing the draw declared between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield .... Pages 1, 5

Labour 'not ready'

Tony Blair has been warned that thousands of Labour seats are at risk in the looming elections because the party's machine is not geared up for the fight ...... Page 2

Computer chauvinism

Computer showrooms are dominated by a macho culture that patronises women and ignores their growing purchasing power, a study has found .... Page 3

Violin could be a fake

The authenticity of one of the greatest violins made by Antonio Stradivari has been called into question. The violin is owned by an Oxford museum .... Page 4

Channel delays loom

Channel truckers and tourists face delays today as Calais port workers demonstrate over the threatened ending of duty free. The protesters are planning to block ferries and trains .... Page 4

Pinochet ruling near

The seven Law Lords deliberating on the fate of General Augusto Pinochet will announce the date of their ruling this week after wrestling with a complex split of opinions .... Page 8

Treasures threatened

Thousands of national treasures could be sold off and exported overseas following new Treasury rules forcing owners to allow the public unfettered access to view the property .... Page 9

Tory rift over ballots

William Hague is headed for a rift with local Tory chiefs after they overwhelmingly backed plans to force MPs to seek reselection by secret ballot .... Page 10

Afghanistan deal

The two warring sides in Afghanistan reached an agreement that could bring the first signs of peace to a country suffering from civil war for two decades .... Page 11

Seven die in Kosovo

The weekend brought the worst violence in Kosovo since peace talks began as three bomb attacks left seven dead .... Page 12

Lafontaine lashes out

An embittered Oskar Lafontaine broke his silence for the first time since resigning from the Finance Ministry and accused Gerhard Schröder's team of letting him down .... Page 13

Ocalan revenge fears

Two Kurdish groups have claimed responsibility for the firebombing of an Istanbul shopping complex in which 13 people died, raising fears of more terrorist acts in retaliation for the abduction of Abdullah Ocalan .... Page 14

Magistrates get their hands dirty

An advertising campaign to recruit more working class people as magistrates and to rid the occupation of its blue-rinse image is launched today. Although there are no figures to provide an employment breakdown of the 30,000 magistrates in England and Wales, few are believed to come from manual jobs, where it is has always been harder to get time off .... Page 8

MICHAEL J SCOTT



Kieron Clarke, the start marshall, eyes the skies at the British Snowboarding Association's Scottish championships in the Cairngorms

BUSINESS

Airports: The Government is prepared to surrender Heathrow's status as the world's busiest international airport in favour of expanding airports elsewhere .... Page 43

Banking: A campaign is underway among the business community in France to prevent one of the country's large banks falling into foreign hands .... Page 45

Rover: The Government will today offer BMW a £200 million aid-for-productivity package to save the Rover plant at Longbridge and 10,000 jobs which are threatened by its closure .... Page 48

Accountancy: Deloitte & Touche is being investigated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales over its auditing of Capital Corporation .... Page 48

FEATURES

Forget 2.4: Three is the new 2.4 — the benchmark of the respectable, middle class family unit. Whether to have a third child is the current debate .... Page 15

Tools for Tolerance: A radical course in race relations which is educating police in Los Angeles has been offered to Britain .... Page 15

FASHION

Party mood: Blending creative spirit with the commercial world is Paris's greatest challenge. Lisa Armstrong reports .... Pages 16, 17

LOTTERY NUMBERS

1, 2, 15, 17, 24, 44 Bonus: 22

Five winners shared Saturday's £7.3 million National Lottery jackpot, each scooping £1,475,972.

Father's day: The 17th-century Italian painter Orazio Gentileschi is better known as the father of Artemisia. The National Gallery seeks to restore his reputation as an artist in his own right .... Page 18

Big sound: Brian Setzer has reinvented the big band music of the 1940s and 1950s. His London gig showed it is paying off ..... Page 18

Family business: With Edward Fox for a father and James Fox for an uncle, Emilia Fox has stage in her blood. It just took her a little longer to act upon it .... Page 19

Veteran returns: Nottingham Playhouse celebrates its 50th anniversary by luring John Neville back to star in Beckett's duologue for man and tape recorder, *Krapp's Last Tape* .... Page 19

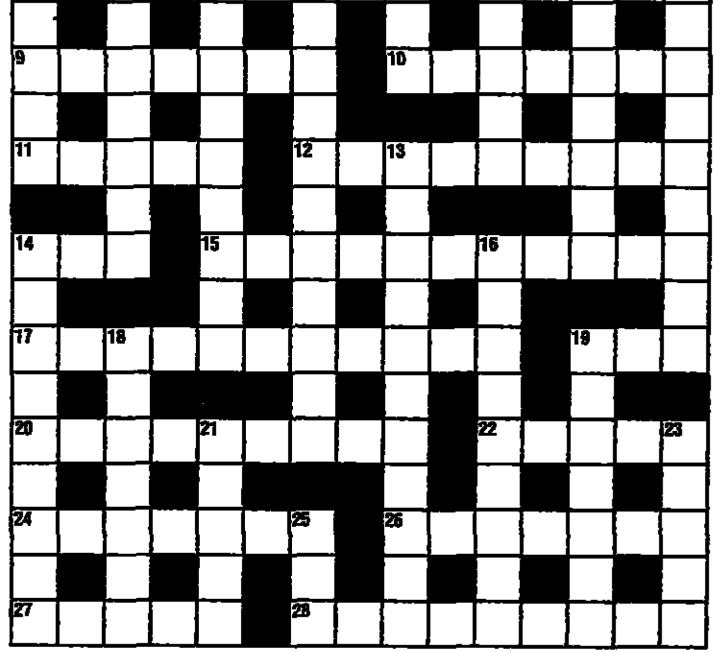
Boxing: "The decision was a travesty." Srikumar Sen reports on the Holyfield-Lewis fight that ended in turmoil .... Pages 25, 27, 35

Football: Middlesbrough registered their first Premiership win of the year by beating Southampton 3-0 .... Page 29

Tennis: 17-year-old Serena Williams won her second title in a row when she beat Steffi Graf in the final of the Evert Cup .... Page 26

Rugby union: Wasps defeated London Irish 38-27 at Loftus Road, proving that they are one of the strongest challengers in the Allied Dunbar Premiership .... Page 37

Rugby league: Bradford Bulls turned on a rare performance of striking power that blew away Warrington Wolves to book their fifth Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final place in eight years .... Page 36



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**

Miriam Makeba returns to Britain for the first time in five years, no longer an exile from her homeland

■ **LAW**

Electronic tagging: a good idea, but will it work?

The enlargement of Nato to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic is a watershed which makes the era of the Cold War seem as remote as the Middle Ages. But an expanded Nato is confronted with problems no less dangerous than the old East-West divide, including Belgrade's intransigence over Kosovo; and within the alliance itself, tensions between Greece and Turkey and Europe and the US. Nato has won, but is still in search of a precise definition of its post Cold War function.

La Repubblica, Rome

RADIO & TV

Preview: Jailbirds gets banged up with female criminals at *New Hall Prison, Yorkshire*. (BBC1, 9.30pm)
Review: Paul Hoggart is bored with Comic Relief .... Pages 46, 47

Excess load

A Budget geared to promoting competitiveness has piled harmful extra taxes on Britain's road haulage companies. The costs will be borne not by those who will lose their jobs, but felt throughout business and industry .... Page 21

Iranian overtures

President Khatami is not yet master in the divided Iranian house. But his overtures to the West reflect real changes in Iran; and its spirited political movement deserves to be taken seriously .... Page 21

On the ropes

The putative heir to the "rumble in the jungle" and the "thriller in Manila" turned out to be "unfair in the Square" .... Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Oskar Lafontaine did not resign just because he detests Gerhard Schröder, though undoubtedly he does. He resigned out of frustration, because he could not do his job .... Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Europe's relations with the United States have become awkward and fractious. Tensions range from trade, via currencies, to defence. So there is a discordant note about the 50th anniversary of the Atlantic Community .... Page 20

ANNA BLUNDY

By 1991 Mikhail Gorbachev, the last General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, had already been consigned to the pleasures of the international lecture circuit by his rival, Boris Yeltsin. It is fairly clear who got the better deal .... Page 20

General Sir William Jackson, former Governor of Gibraltar; Jaki Byard, jazz pianist; Sir Emmanuel Kaye, CBE, industrialist; William Mathieson, former Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Overseas Development .... Page 23

Budget on transport costs; female circumcision; legal aid; women writers; laptop computers for teachers; Uganda and Sudan ... Page 24

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,051

ACROSS

1 Money Miss Borden got for old car (5,6).
6 Choose one council leader of vision (5).
9 Rod has a dip when he discovers water (7).
10 Ring accepted by speculator in gold, perhaps (7).
11 Some were lured back for a sovereign (5).
12 Vague change accepted by husband in loving environment (9).
14 Modest reduction of military unit (3).
15 Of exceptional ability, but still not paid (11).
17 Like a whole range of climbers' requisites (11).
19 Damage or impair, ignoring the odds (3).
20 Notes haphazardly made about Roman ruin (9).
22 Parched Conservative goes in for bitter (5).
24 Green-eyed woman in English Intelligence (7).
26 Boxer, perhaps, knocked out? Damn it! (7).
27 Sycophant's notes switched for the present (5).
28 Bird commander put out like cat (9).

DOWN

1 Riot over receiving head of Danish royal house (5).
2 She, for example, gets yen after short time for something original (7).
3 Shot on state thoroughfare furthest from border (9).
4 Is a razor not unusual for Parsee? (11).
5 Decline of Mrs Browning, initially (3).
6 Plant that's source of meat sauce (5).
7 Toil frantically to secure rent in Mediterranean port (7).
8 Something that beats flattery as a sweetener? (4,5).
13 Form of aid the poor originally claimed for such treatment (11).
14 Dairy product politician fed to pet (9).
16 Novel gains a lot, looking back wistfully (9).
18 Firm still in the same premises? (7).
19 Italian physicist's study assimilated by girl out East (7).
21 In royal circles, a vessel with ample space (5).
23 Live with duke in some luxury (5).
25 So unhealthy, by the sound of it (3).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,050 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.15 am
Sun sets: 6.04 pm
Moon sets: 3.15 pm
Moon rises: 5.20 am
New moon March 17

London 6.04 pm to 6.13 am
Bristol 6.14 pm to 6.23 am
Edinburgh 6.15 pm to 6.27 am
Manchester 6.12 pm to 6.23 am
Penzance 6.26 pm to 6.35 am

☐ **General:** southern and central parts of England and Wales fine with decent sunny periods after a misty start. Northern half of England and Wales cloudy, with drizzle in Cumbria. Scotland and N Ireland will start cloudy and windy with showery rain, chiefly in the west. Southern Scotland and N Ireland will stay largely cloudy with occasional patchy rain. Northern Scotland should brighten up for a time with the strong winds easing; more rain will return this evening.

Tonight England and Wales fine with patchy fog and ground frost in the south; a little rain in far north of England. Scotland mild and overcast with rain sweeping eastwards, locally heavy and prolonged over western hills. A little rain in Northern Ireland.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S, SW England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Is, S Wales:** fine and very mild with good sunny periods after early mist has cleared. Light, variable winds. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **E England:** mostly dry, mild with the best sunny intervals along coast, but cloud increasing. Mod SW wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lakes, IoM:** mild and rather cloudy with drizzle possible over hills. Mod SW wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Cent N, NE England:** mostly dry and mild; cloudy with sunny intervals in eastern fringes. Mod SW wind, locally gusty. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N. Ireland:** mainly cloudy and blustery with occasional rain and drizzle, especially over hills. Gusty SW wind, slowly easing. Max 12C (54F)

☐ **Aberdeen:** windy with patchy rain over hills at first, but brightening up along coast. Strong S wind, turning SW and easing. Max 12C (54F).

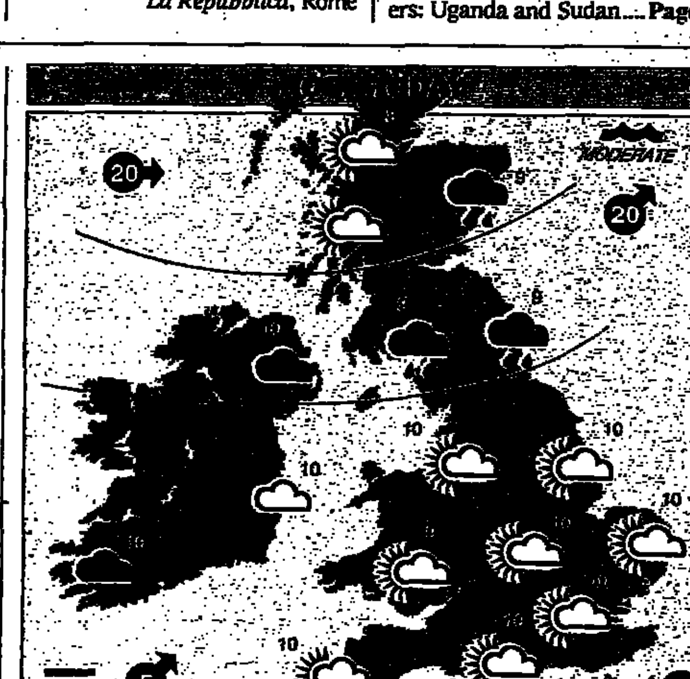
☐ **Cent Highlands, Moray Firth:** early rain and strong winds will clear to give bright spells and scattered showers. Strong to gale S wind will turn SW and ease. Max 11C (52F)

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** very windy morning with a southerly gale for a time, but winds will turn SW and ease later. It will start overcast with some rain; brighter with sunny spells and squally showers this afternoon. Max 8C (46F).

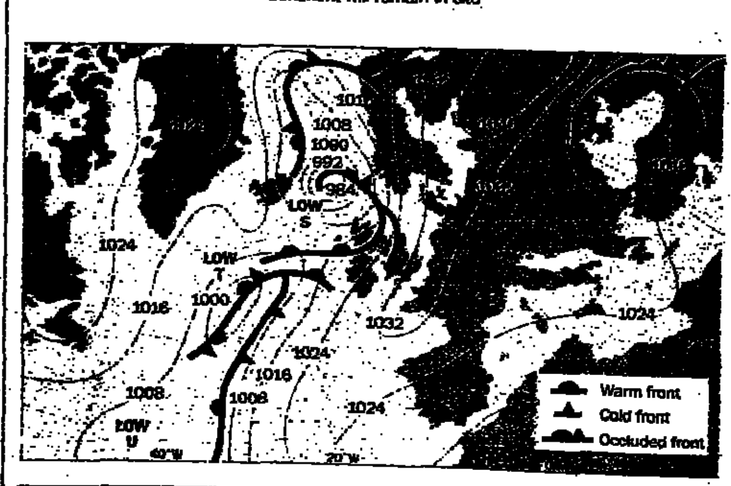
☐ **NW Scotland:** early rain and strong winds will clear to give sunny spells and scattered showers for a time, but rain will return later this afternoon. Strong to gale S wind will turn SW and ease. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** cloudy in north and west. A little light rain in places. Wind SW mainly moderate. Max 12C (54F)

☐ **Outlook:** overnight fog and ground frost will clear to leave southern Britain fine and relatively warm tomorrow with good sunny spells, the north rather cloudy with rain in parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland. Wednesday largely dry and bright.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low S will continue northwards with little change. Low T will move northwards, followed by low U. The high pressure over the near Continent will remain in situ



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

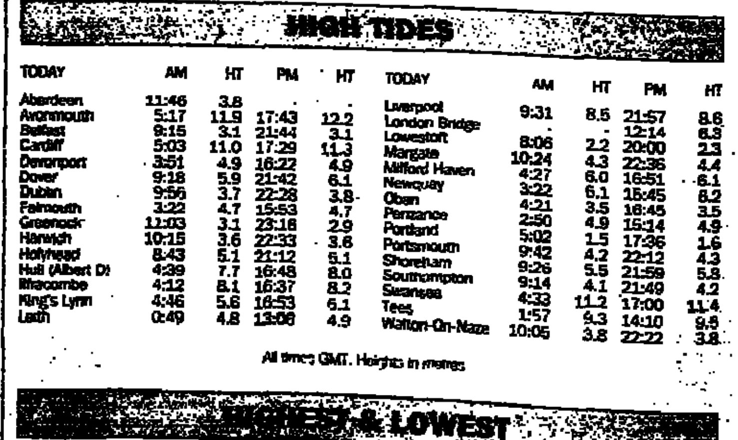
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales, h=hail, r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet, s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	3.7	-	11	52	s	Isle of Wight	X	0.01	13	55	s
Anglesey	8.0	-	10	50	s	Jersey	10.3	-	13	55	s
Aspatria	7.5	0.01	10	50	s	Kinloss	7.7	0.01	11	52	s
Aviemore	6.6	0.03	9	48	s	Leeds	6.2	0.01	12	54	sh
Belfast	4.3	0.01	10	50	s	Lerwick	8.4	-	8	46	s
Birmingham	7.0	-	12	54	s	Leuchars	6.7	0.01	11	52	s
Bognor R	10.7	-	13	55	s	Littlehampton	9.9	0.01	13	55	s
Bournemth	10.3	-	13	55	s	London	9.9	-	14	57	s
Bristol	10.1	-	13	55	s	Lowestoft	9.4	-	13	55	s
Buxton	7.1	-	10	50	s	Manchester	5.5	0.01	11	52	s
Cardiff	7.3	-	14	57	s	Margate	10.1	-	12	54	s
Clacton	10.0	-	12	54	s	Morecambe	7.5	-	10	50	s
Cleethorpes	8.5	0.01	14	57	s	Newcastle	8.0	-	11	52	s
Colwyn Bay	6.2	-	13	55	s	Newquay	4.0	-	11	52	s
Cromer	10.1	-	11	52	s	Norwich	9.3	-	13	55	s
Edinburgh	3.9	0.01	12	54	s	Oxford	8.6	-	13	55	s
Eskdalemuir	6.6	0.01	10	50	s	Penzance	6.5	-	14	57	s
Exmouth	7.5	-	11	52	s	Poole	8.7	0.01	15	59	s
Fishguard	5.3	-	11	52	b	Prestatyn	3.7	-	11	52	b
Folkestone	10.7	-	13	55	s	Ross on Wye	5.1	-	13	55	s
Glasgow	5.9	0.02	11	52	b	Saunton Sands	9.1	-	14	57	s
Guernsey	3.9	0.01	14	57	s	Scarborough	6.3	0.01	11	52	s
Hastings	10.0	-	12	54	s	Shrewsbury	5.8	0.01	12	54	sh
Hayling I.	9.0	0.01	11	52	s	Skegness	9.5	-	13	55	s
Herne Bay	9.6	-	13	55	s	Southend	9.5	0.02	13	55	b
Hove	6.2	-	13	55	s	Southport	X	-	X	X	s
Hunstanton	3.7	-	12	54	s	Stornoway	6.6	0.17	10	50	sh
Isle of Man	8.0	0.01	10	50	s	Swanage	9.5	0.01	12	54	s
						Teignmouth	7.2	-	12	54	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	17	63	s	Cologne	13	55	s	Madrid	11	52	c	Rome	14	57	[illegible]
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	2	36	f	Majorca	18	64	[illegible]	R'nldsway	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alexdria	19	66	f	Corfu	16	61	s	Malaga	17	63	f	Salzburg	10	[illegible]	[illegible]
Algiers	21	70	f	Dublin	10	50	c	Malta	16	61	f	S Frisco	12	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amstdm	11	52	s	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Melbourne	26	79	s	Santiago	26	[illegible]	[illegible]
Athens	18	64	s	Faro	13	55	c	Mexico C	24	75	s	Seoul	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bahrain	25	77	f	Florence	19	66	s	Miami	25	77	s	Singapore	26	79	t
Bangkok	35	95	s	Frankfurt	10	50	s	Milan	14	57	c	Stockholm	-2	29	sn
Barbados	29	84	c	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	-5	23	s	Strasbrg	10	50	s
Barcelona	15	59	c	Geneva	12	54	s	Moscow	-4	25	sn	Sydney	26	79	c
Beijing	3	37	c	Gibraltar	17	63	f	Munich	9	48	s	Tangier	17	63	f
Beirut	18	64	s	Helsinki	-3	27	s	Nairobi	24	75	c	Tel Aviv	22	72	c
Belgrade	12	54	s	Hong K	16	61	sh	Naples	18	64	s	Tenerife	21	70	f
Berlin	5	41	s	Innsbruck	13	55	s	N Delhi	25	77	s	Tokyo	9	48	s
Bermuda	15	59	f	Istanbul	13	55	s	N York	2	36	f	Toronto	-2	28	s
Biarritz	17	63	f	Jeddah	30	86	s	Nice	17	63	s	Tunis	19	66	s
Bordeaux	15	59	f	Jo'burg	28	82	f	Oslo	-5	23	f	Valencia	14	57	f
Brussels	14	57	s	L Palmas	22	72	f	Paris	17	63	s	Vanc'ver	5	41	c
Budapest	9	48	s	Le Touqt	12	54	f	Perth	35	95	f	Venice	17	63	s
B Aires	24	75	s	Lisbon	13	55	c	Prague	5	41	s	Vienna	6	43	s
Cairo	21	70	s	Locarno	13	55	s	Reykjavik	3	37	f	Warsaw	-1	30	f
Cape Tn	20	68	f	L Angeles	14	57	s	Rhodes	17	63	s	Washton	5	41	s
Chicago	2	36	s	Luxembg	11	52	s	Rio de J	27	81	f	Wellngton	21	70	s
Chchurch	X			Luxor	27	81	s	Riyadh	31	88	s	Zurich	10	50	s

Temperatures at midday local time. X - not available



HIGH TIDES

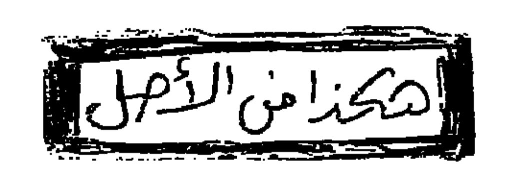
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	11:46	3.8	-	-	Liverpool	9:31	8.5	21:57	8.6
Avonmouth	5:17	11.9	17:43	12.2	London Bridge	-	-	12:14	6.3
Belfast	9:15	3.1	21:44	3.1	Lowestoft	8:06	2.2	20:00	2.3
Cardiff	5:03	11.0	17:29	11.3	Margate	10:24	4.3	22:36	4.4
Devonport	3:51	4.9	16:22	4.9	Milford Haven	4:27	6.0	16:51	6.1
Dover	9:18	5.9	21:42	6.1	Newquay	3:22	6.1	15:45	6.2
Dublin	9:56	3.7	22:28	3.8	Oban	4:21	3.5	16:45	3.5
Falmouth	3:22	4.7	15:53	4.7	Penzance	2:50	4.9	15:14	4.9
Greenock	11:03	3.1	23:18	2.9	Portland	5:02	1.5	17:36	1.6
Harwich	10:15	3.6	22:33	3.6	Portsmouth	9:42	4.2	22:12	4.3
Holyhead	8:43	5.1	21:12	5.1	Shoreham	9:26	5.5	21:59	5.8
Hull (Albert D)	4:39	7.7	16:48	8.0	Southampton	9:14	4.1	21:49	4.2
Ilfracombe	4:12	8.1	16:37	8.2	Swansea	4:33	11.2	17:00	11.4
King's Lynn	4:46	5.6	16:53	6.1	Tees	1:57	9.3	14:10	9.5
Leith	0:49	4.8	13:06	4.9	Walton-On-Naze	10:05	3.8	22:22	3.8

All times GMT. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day max: Poole, Dorset, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Tulloch Bridge, Highland, 8C (46F); most rainfall: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 0.51in; most sunshine: Bognor Regis, W Sussex, and Folkestone, Kent, 10.7hr

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Gamble in Milan

Oliver Holt on a twist in the Ronaldo saga

page 31



Keegan's choice

Matt Dickinson awaits the new England era

page 34



Faldo faces failure

John Hopkins talks to a fallen champion

page 34



Pride of Cheltenham

Michael Hourigan hopes to strike Festival gold

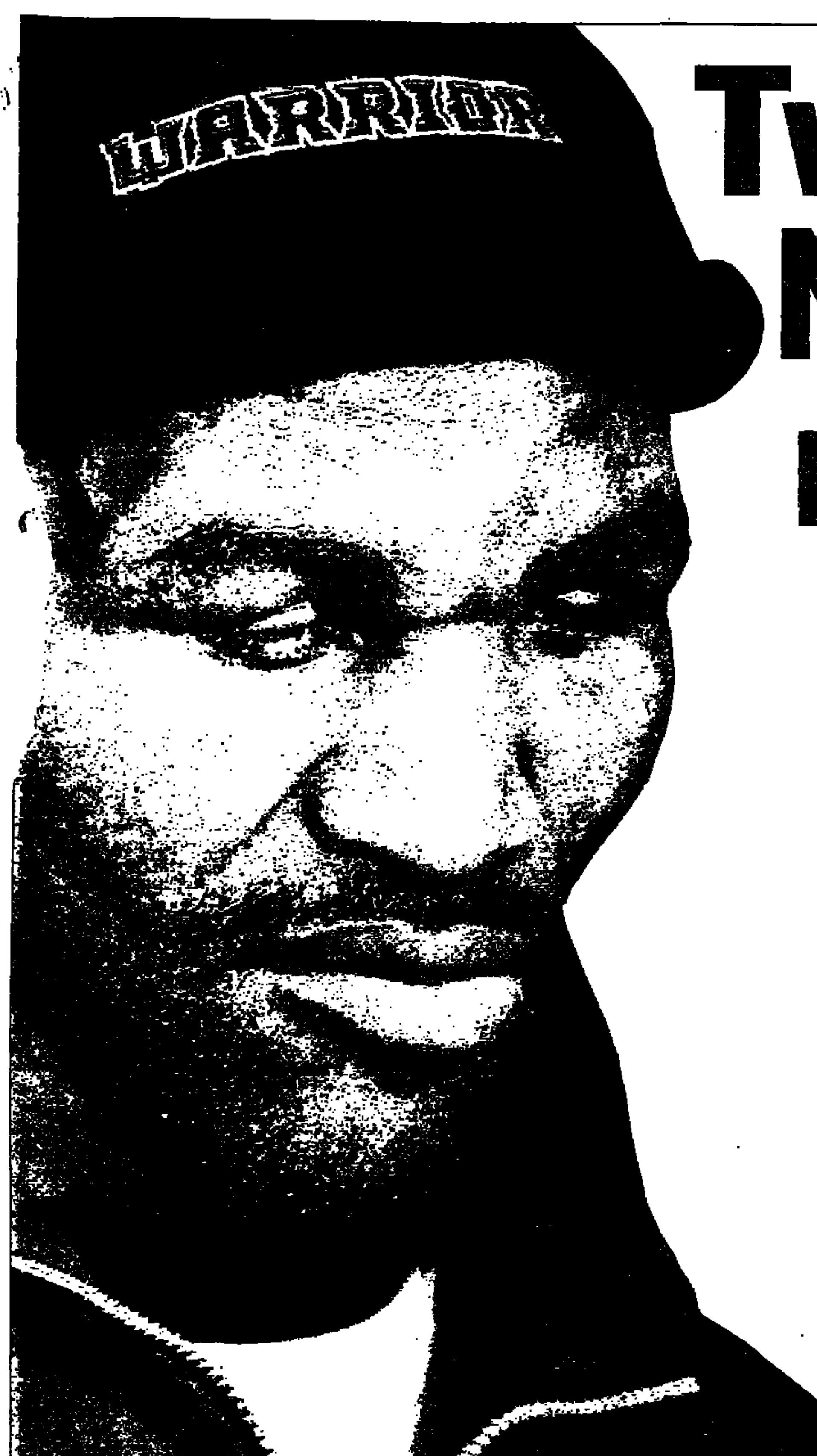
page 38

TIMES SPORT

16 PAGES

MONDAY MARCH 15 1999

Two hurt in New York mugging



THE CRIME FIGURES

	HOLYFIELD	LEWIS
PUNCHES THROWN	385	613
PUNCHES CONNECTED	130	348
JABS THROWN	171	364
JABS CONNECTED	52	187
POWER PUNCHES THROWN	214	249
POWER PUNCHES CONNECTED	78	161
KNOCKDOWNS	NIL	NIL

Lennox Lewis was robbed of the world heavyweight title by flawed judging. **Srikumar Sen**, boxing correspondent, examines an outrageous case of theft in New York

Lennox Lewis answered every question his severest critics have asked of him ever since his second-round defeat by Oliver McCall five years ago. He met Evander Holyfield for the undisputed world heavyweight title here at Madison Square Garden on Saturday and beat the IBF and WBA champion out of sight. But when the result was announced, Lewis, the WBC champion, was shocked to find he had been cheated of the unified title by the judges calling the contest a draw. It was mainly the work of one judge who was not watching the same fight not seen by 300 million people all over the world.

ON OTHER PAGES

The decision was a travesty and will only serve to confirm the belief that the detractors of boxing have always held, that it is not so much a sport as a racket for keeping sleazy luminaries in business. Both the champion and the challenger have been damaged by such a controversial outcome.

There is no way in which Lewis, 33, could have lost the contest. On my scoring — and that of many others — he was clearly the winner by nine rounds to three, giving Holyfield, in the process, a lesson in the finer points of boxing strategy. He outmanoeuvred Holyfield, who was supposed to dominate close in, inside and outside.

When the scorecards were gathered up from the three judges — Larry O'Connell, of Britain, Stanley Christodoulou, of South Africa, and Eugenia Williams, of the United States — and a draw was announced, Lewis was so surprised that he dropped his head on the shoulders of a cornerman and shook it over and over again in disbelief. But, after the decision, even those in the crowd who had made the contest a draw agreed that Lewis had gained a moral victory.

"I'm so disappointed," Lewis said. "It was my time to shine and they ripped me off." Then, with typical modesty, he handed the credit for his victory to his trainer Emanuel Steward. "He is a great trainer. He's a trainer of champions."

So disgusted was the anchorman of the TVKO pay-per-view presentation by the result, that Jim Lampley was moved to say "Boxing's cesspool opened up to give an unconscionable odour". To the American public he said: "You have seen the fight. Lennox Lewis was the winner and two judges converted it to a draw. Lennox won it in every way imaginable. The draw means there is no undisputed champion but there should be."

If apology was needed for the unjustified ridicule and scorn that American boxing writers have poured on Lewis, it was given in a moving tribute by the country's top boxing commentator, Larry Merchant.

He said on television: "It is almost beyond a stench. Lennox Lewis suffered so many slings and arrows in America. He has had a really wonderful career and despite being the best fighter in the heavyweight division he has been shamelessly avoided by everyone in this decade.

"He came here to fight the best of the best right now, decisively controlled the fight throughout, beat Holyfield up and didn't get a decision. I'm ashamed as a boxing fan and as an American who has seen this foreigner take so much stuff from the other people simply because he is not American. His great moment of glory was taken away from him."

Don King, who is Holyfield's promoter, yesterday called for an immediate rematch to resolve the dispute. While the idea seems a good one because it would prevent the world organisations from putting forward unworthy mandatory contenders, the bout is unlikely to happen.

Yesterday the three boxing bodies — the International Boxing Federation (IBF), the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the World Boxing Council (WBC) — agreed that a rematch should take place as soon as possible, though this would not be before the autumn. However, it would be against their rules, which require Holyfield, 36, to have one contest before a rematch is sanctioned.

But Seth Abraham, the head of Time Warner Sport, is against the idea. He was happy for Lewis to hold his next defence in London in July if he won the undisputed title, but he says he will not entertain a Lewis-Holyfield rematch.

Abraham said: "Holyfield has to make a mandatory defence against Henry Akinwande. Let him do that first." No doubt Abraham realises that Lewis's demand for a rematch will be far greater than the £10 million that he received against Holyfield's £18 million for Saturday's fight, now that he is universally accepted as the people's champion. Meanwhile, Akinwande, another British boxer, was indicating yesterday that he might be willing to stand aside if circumstances were right.

The statistics of the Holyfield-Lewis contest will cause questions to be asked as to how Williams, the American judge who gave the contest to Holyfield on points, 115-113, and O'Connell, who scored the fight even at 115-115 came to their conclusions. Lewis threw a total of 613 punches and Holyfield 385. Lewis landed 348 of those, Holyfield only 130; 187 of Lewis's jabs connected while only 52 of Holyfield's got through. And of the power punches, Lewis came out on top by 161 to 78.

In no round did Holyfield land more blows than Lewis and in five rounds Holyfield did not connect with more than nine punches, while Lewis's tally went into the twenties and thirties for all the rounds but the first.

It was lucky for Lewis that he did not lose the twelfth and final round because, in spite of winning the whole contest by a wide margin in the eyes of the crowd, Holyfield would have been declared the winner if Lewis had lost that round. That would have been unbearable for the British camp.

Dino Duva, Lewis's co-promoter, said he had been unhappy with the appointment of Williams and had tried to have her replaced. "She's very experienced," Duva said, "very experienced in making bad decisions." Lewis's promoter, Panos Eliades, wanted to know how it was possible that the WBC had put forward O'Connell as a judge when only recently he had officiated at the contest between Oscar de la Hoya and Ike Quartey. "Surely there should be rotation of judges," he said. In fact, in that fight O'Connell was the one judge that gave Quarty the decision.

The victory for Lewis, and it was a victory no matter what the judges say, gave me greater pleasure than any boxing match I have seen, including the one in which Holyfield exposed Mike Tyson. This is not only because it has ended all the jokes about British heavyweights being of the horizontal variety but also brought to an end American domination of the division that has lasted a hundred years.

But most of all I am pleased for Lewis for it was a personal triumph over his American critics. Perhaps, like the way they had to change their tune about another man in another time, Muhammed Ali, when he became the people's champion after his defeat by Joe Frazier in 1971, the Americans will at last show Lewis some respect.

MARC ASPLAND



Lewis claims victory, only to be denied by the judges

Keepers of the flame must renew allegiances

The future of the Olympic movement is at stake this week. **John Goodbody** looks at the issues to be addressed if the Games are to survive scandal and corruption


Samaranch: tolerates abuse

In its 106-year history, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has survived many crises, including wars, terrorist attacks, boycotts, drugs scandals, political interference and rampant commercialism. Yet, this week, in its home city of Lausanne, the IOC faces the most serious threat yet to its existence.

Just as King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table successfully fended off their external enemies, only to succumb to feuding among their own ranks, so the very fabric of the Olympic movement is now threatened by some of the IOC members themselves, the men and women charged with the task of preserving the ideals of the Games.

The world of sport is watching and waiting with concern and expectation. At least six members face expulsion at the 106th session on Wednesday and Thursday — a vote that requires a two-thirds majority of the 110 remaining IOC members. Four have resigned already over the same bribery allegations when Salt Lake City secured the 2002 Winter Olympics. The outcry over the selection of sites for the Games was always a scandal waiting to happen.

In 1976, Monique Berlioux, the IOC's former executive director, wrote that, even in the 1920s, members were offered first-class travel for themselves and their wives. Increasingly, however, receptions, gifts and lavish dinners have been used by candidate cities to persuade members in the ballots.

What had not been revealed prevously, although long suspected, was the frequency with which money or other favours were used by cities desperate to stage the world's biggest sports festivals. As the Games had become increasingly commercial, television companies and sponsors began to pay huge sums of money to be associated with the event. The television rights for the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid cost £10 million; for 2002 in Salt Lake City, the price is £300 million.

Leading competitors in the most popular sports, such as athletics and skiing, have also become hugely rich — the word amateur was deleted from the Olympic charter in 1973. It is no wonder that some IOC members have become tainted by the atmosphere of opulence.

In 1986, the IOC limited gifts to members to a maximum of £100, so the lobbying had to be done in secret, and this was complicated by the fact that guidelines on what was and what was not permissible had never been drawn up.

Certainly, members received lavish meals, first-class flights (some redeemed for cash), luxury hotels, offers of prostitutes and eventually bribes. Some members, such as the Princess Royal, who will miss the meeting this week because of a visit to the Far East, have sent back presents — without thanks.

Others have not been so scrupulous. Some have argued that cities giving donations to the favourite sporting charities of members or development projects in their own countries should be allowed. They argue that these gifts are for the benefit of Olympic sports, often in Third World countries. However, now that Pandora's box has been prised open, even the number of peanuts consumed by members in hotel lobbies round the world is being scrutinised.

The IOC has to act decisively this week. Sponsors have warned that they want corruption eliminated before the build-up in marketing begins this summer for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. At a meeting this week, a reform commission, including outside members, will be proposed to change the rules and structure of the IOC. Among the suggestions is that future members should have a fixed term and usually represent national Olympic committees or international sports federations. At the moment, the IOC selects its members who represent the organisation in their own countries. They are not delegates from those countries to the IOC.

There will also be a new voting process for the selection of Games sites. A 15-member panel is expected to choose the two finalists for each summer and winter Games and the membership would then vote, although they would do so without necessarily having seen the facilities in those countries.

The IOC has two fears this week. The first is that there will be considerable short-term damage if any of the six — Lamine Keita (Mali), Agustin Arroyo (Ecuador), Zein El Abdin Ahmed Abdel Gadir (Sudan), Sergio Santander Fantini (Chile), Jean-Claude Ganga (Congo) and Seiuli Paul Wallwork (Samoa) — having been formally expelled from the IOC, reveals hitherto undisclosed details of further corruption by their former colleagues. The second is that the allegations over corruption in the bidding of other contending cities for Olympic Games will linger.

Juan-Antonio Samaranch seems certain to be confirmed as president until he voluntarily resigns in 2001. The members, either officially or unofficially, will back him in a vote of confidence. He is not prepared to take responsibility for the crisis, even if he was aware, or should have been aware, how much abuse of the Olympic ethos has occurred. On taking office, every IOC member has to swear to "keep myself free from any political and commercial influence". Under Samaranch's 19-year presidency, too many have not followed the letter or the spirit of their oath.

TENNIS

Williams learns about self-belief

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

ALL THINGS considered, it does not seem like much of a prize — Serena Williams wins the biggest title of her career, beating one of the greatest champions of the women's game, her second successive tournament victory taking her winning streak to 11 matches — and her father promises to take her to McDonald's.

Still, the 17-year-old seemed happy enough. On Saturday Williams defeated Steffi Graf 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 to win the Evert Cup, so pocketing a cheque for $200,000 — more than enough to buy burgers for the whole family.

From being a promising and powerful hopeful, Williams has suddenly grown up. In the last few weeks she has proved that she has what it takes to be a champion. The physique and the athleticism were never in doubt — but now she has the belief and the application to fight, to dig herself out of trouble and, ultimately, to win. And it shows.

"I think I realised one day in practice that I had to make changes to my game if I wanted to get to the top level," she said. "It was about three weeks ago, before I won in Paris, when I realised that I can't keep going out there and losing to people I should beat if I want to be a top player."

That is as maybe but not many players go into a match against Graf thinking they really ought to win. For the first set on Saturday, Williams's sheer power was staggering. She hammered the Graf second service, standing a yard inside the baseline and waiting to leather the ball into the corners.

Only in the second set did Williams let up. Her service went off the boil slightly and Graf took full advantage and another break at the start of the third set had her heading for the title until Williams called for an injury time-out after three games because of a knee problem. Five games later Williams had levelled the scores and a few minutes later a couple of forehand errors cost Graf the match.



Jie Schopp, 31, who was born in China but now lives in Germany, is in determined mood as she powers to victory against the rising French star, Anne Boileau, 23, in the final of the English Open table tennis championships at Great Yarmouth yesterday. In the men's final, the former world No 2, Ma Wenge, of China, beat Kim Taek Soo, of South Korea

HOCKEY

Canterbury take a giant leap

BY CATHY HARRIS AND SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANTERBURY secured the first division title and a place in next season's women's National League premier division for the first time when they beat Bradford 2-1.

Nikki Litchfield scored the winning goal from a penalty corner two minutes after Jill Barker had equalised for Bradford. After losing to Loughborough Students in February, the Kent club put together a five-match unbeaten run which secured promotion.

Denise Baker, the coach, said: "We've been close in the last four or five years and it just goes to show what a good finish and loads of self-belief can do."

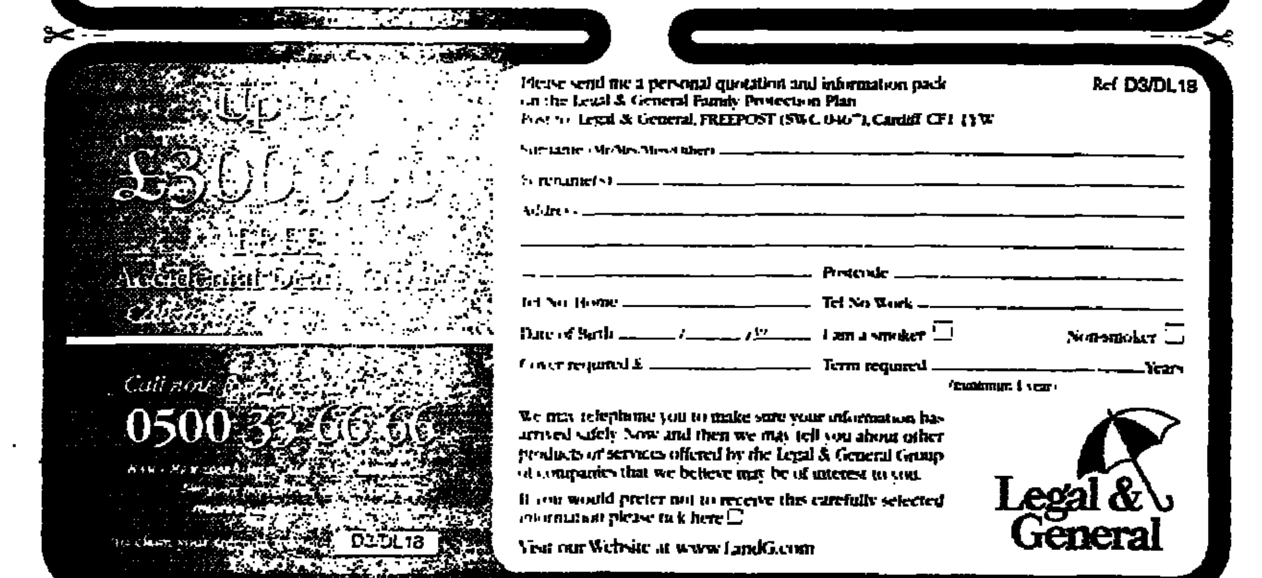
Chelmsford, who were relegated three years ago, were also celebrating automatic promotion when goals by Julie Parrott, Jo Green, Tracy Willmore and Kath Fordham ensured a comfortable win at Aldridge. Woking, of the second division, stormed to the championship with an unbeaten record after a convincing victory over Sherwood.

Four goals by Mark Pearn enabled Reading to defeat Old Loughtonians 7-3 in the men's National League premier division match at Chigwell yesterday, a result that underlined the potential of the winners, who were without Wyatt and Robinson, of New Zealand. The win pushes Reading up to third position above Canterbury.

Crutchley also hit the target four times as Cannock, the League leaders, hammered East Grinstead 13-3. Pidcock, Johnson and Glover each added two goals while Gibson scored twice for East Grinstead.

Southgate kept up the chase with a 4-2 away victory over Canterbury, for whom Mathews converted two short corners. Rott scored twice for Southgate with further goals being added by Kerry and Williams from a short corner.

Guildford's chances of finishing in the top four receded after a 6-2 defeat by Bournville, for whom Grummitt scored four goals.



GOLF: SPANIARD COMES OUT ON TOP IN HIS OWN BACK YARD

Jimenez dances to the happy tune of victory

FROM MEL WEBB IN MALAGA

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ went wandering among the sands of the Costa del Sol yesterday and dug up a bountiful haul of buried treasure. Jiménez was a lost soul as he embarked on the inward half of his final round in the Turespaña Masters, his once-handsome lead disappearing fast. Only a moment of inspiration was going to save him; and he found not one, but two, before going on to win with a total of 264, 24 under par.

Jiménez led by five strokes going into the round at the Parador Malaga del Golf but had fallen from grace by shedding three shots to par in three holes from the seventh. A threat was being mounted by Steve Webster, the tough little Englishman, and Raphael Jacquelin, of France, and Jiménez suddenly looked vulnerable.

Things did not look a great deal better when he put his second shot into a greenside bunker on the tenth, but he retrieved the situation in the grandest manner by splashing out and watching as the ball trickled gently into the hole for a birdie.

He had a stroke of downright good fortune when a compatriot's foot stopped his ball from going into a pond on the 11th to allow him to save par when at least a double bogey loomed. He was not yet out of trouble, but at least his game and his mood had been put back into kilter.

With five holes to play, he was only one stroke ahead of Webster and did not look likely to extend his advantage when he dumped his second shot into a greenside bunker on the par-five 14th. Surely he could not pull off the great escape again. He could, and did. This time, the ball came out of the sand at pace but, like a heat-seeking missile, it bounced, looked for the hole and found it. Eagle three; three ahead again; the tournament was his.


Winning smile: Jiménez receives his son's goodwill

A birdie on the 16th was, at once, satisfying and totally irrelevant as he finished with a 67. By now, Webster's push had lost its impetus, but a closing 66, that put him into second place four strokes behind Jiménez, was still a doughty effort. Neither he nor Jacquelin, who finished third, did not fail, but they had pitted themselves against a man on a mission, a Malagueno who was playing not just for himself, but for his people. Jiménez, thus, became the first man to defend successfully a title on the European Tour for two years and his score had been beaten only twice in the tour's history. The invitation to play in the US Masters that arrived on Friday evening was the £59,500 icing on the cake.

This was the fifth victory of Jiménez's career and, because it had been produced on his doorstep, the most precious. All that remained to complete the celebration was the dancing of an impromptu fandango in the media centre. You won't catch Colin Montgomerie hopping a post-victory reel any time soon.

Matthew edges into frame

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

CATRIONA MATTHEW, the Solheim Cup player from North Berwick, was handily placed to challenge for the title yesterday after a third round of 65, seven under par, in the Welch's/Circle K Championship at Randolph North here in Tucson.

"She just passed the world," one contender said. The round, which equalled the best of the week, catapulted the Scot into contention, just three shots behind the American veteran, Dale Eggeling, who was out in front on 204, 12 under par. The irrepressible Dottie Pepper, the perennial scourge of Europe in the Solheim Cup, was alongside Michele Redman, a fellow American, on 205, with Nancy Scranton and Hollis Stacy on 206.

Four years ago here, Matthew, in her rookie season on the US tour, was rushed to hospital and had to have emergency surgery to remove an ovarian cyst, so it would only be poetic justice if she were to win her first US title now.

Matthew has had a steady start this season after sharing fifth place in the Healthsouth Inaugural, the first event of the year, in Florida, but is quietly confident after winning the McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe at Gleneagles last August.

It was her maiden victory in Europe and secured her a place in the Solheim Cup team. It also gave her the invaluable boost that only winning brings. "I want to win a tournament this year," she said of her American ambitions. "And to finish in the top 30 on the money list."

Matthew's parents missed her round because they were sightseeing in Tombstone, but they are certain to be watching the final shoot-out.

IN BRIEF

■ **CYCLING:** Stephen Cummings's bid at the age of 17, to outride many of Britain's leading sponsored seniors in the Mersey Roads three-stage 192km road race at the weekend was a sparkling success after the first two stages when he became the overall race leader (Peter Bryan writes). But his moment of truth came in the 134km stage through Flintshire yesterday, when he had to give best to his elders. He finished 14th overall, 2min 33sec behind Gareth Sheppard, the race winner.

■ **BOWLS:** Eileen Bell, who first played for Ireland 33 years ago, will compete in the final of the British women's indoor pairs championship in her home Belfast stadium today, after she skipped Kathleen Megrath to an exciting 22-20 extra-end victory over Paula Summerfield and Joanna Jones, the young Welsh champions, yesterday. Using their local knowledge, the Irish pair careered into a 16-4 lead after ten ends, but Summerfield and Jones fought back superbly, forcing the extra end when they tied the scores 20-20 after the full 21 ends.

■ **SKIING:** Lasse Kjus, of Norway, won the men's overall World Cup title after he threw caution aside in the final race of the season yesterday. The world champion had languished in 15th place after the first leg of the giant slalom, but a blistering second run lifted him to seventh and brought the points necessary to see off Kjetil Andre Aamodt, his main rival. Michael von Gruenigen, of Switzerland, won the race in a total time of 2min 4.33sec to reclaim the giant slalom title that he lost to Hermann Maier, of Austria, last season.

■ **BASKETBALL:** Sheffield Sharks moved up to within two points of Manchester Giants, the Budweiser League leaders, yesterday, with a hard-earned 63-60 victory over Milton Keynes Lions at Bletchley. The out-of-touch Sharks missed 12 of their 25 free throws and trailed for most of the game but they rallied in the final quarter to secure victory, helped by 23 points from Terrell Myers.



Lewis paws Holyfield away with his left hand, with which he dictated the contest, with his right cocked to inflict further punishment on an opponent who rarely overcame disadvantages in weight and reach. Photograph: Kathy Willens

Lacklustre Holyfield saved by the judge

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

IT WAS supposed to be agony in the Garden for Lennox Lewis, but it turned out that it was Evander Holyfield, the man of God, who did not have a prayer. The American was supposed to demolish Lewis in the third round but from the first bell it was clear that Holyfield would be unlikely to fulfil his prophecy, although having been put off his stride in the first two rounds by well-placed jabs, Holyfield did then make a desperate attempt to justify his prediction.

From the bell, he rushed after Lewis and battered him around the ring. For just a moment it seemed that he would succeed in forcing a stoppage. But the bigger man, after swaying around in some disarray and covering up, was able to survive by retreating behind a jab that had no more than nuisance value.

Holyfield did not have a back-up plan. He had said he would not need one as the fight would certainly end in the third. Now, as his corner scratched around for alternatives, Holyfield could not come up with anything other than desperate lunges in an attempt to get past Lewis's extended left arm.

As rounds went by, Holyfield looked older, a forlorn shadow of the man who had a few weeks earlier in Houston, Texas, been so full of the joys of boxing. In the end, he was completely exhausted and even as he went back to his corner, before slumping onto his stool, he knew he had been beaten and that the title was going back to Britain after 102 years.

But Eugenia Williams, the American judge, came to his aid by making him the winner by 115-113, which meant that with Larry O'Connell's draw, 115-115, and Stanley Christodoulou's win for Lewis by 116-113, the contest was a draw. The unified title would not, after all, be crossing the Atlantic.

At the post-fight press conference, Holyfield could hardly stand without leaning on the table. As he waited for questions, he swayed back and forth, the muscles twitching in his bruised and battered face. A man kept calling, "get a doctor, get a doctor". In the event, Holyfield was able to field the questions without medical aid, but the public did not need the judges' score cards to tell them the winner.

It was good to see the *New York Post*, which had taunted Lewis mercilessly all week, screaming, "Robbery!" on the front page, and "D-raw deal" on the back.

Before a sell-out crowd of 21,284, among them Michael Douglas and Jack Nicholson, Lewis began confidently, taking the fight to Holyfield and jabbing him round the ring. Holyfield was not difficult to hit and Lewis's gloves must have felt like a cricket ball in his face. Cheered on by his delighted supporters, numbering around 7,000, the World Boxing Council champion took the second round with remarkable ease. After his failed attempt to finish Lewis off in the third, Holyfield appeared to look tired and ring-weary.

In the fifth round, his best, which Ms Williams gave to Holyfield, Lewis had a chance to knock out the double champion. As Holyfield trapped Lewis in a neutral corner and tried to bore in, Lewis neatly turned him and clouted him on top of the head with a big right.

It was a punch that Lewis had always hoped to land ever since seeing Holyfield disoriented by a blow to the temple. This punch landed a little higher than the temple but had the desired effect. Holyfield staggered backwards to the ropes, his head snagged in the top one. He was clearly in trouble, for he he stood there just looking at Lewis.

After a couple of prods to see that his opponent was not feigning, Lewis unleashed a jab and two rights but still Holyfield did not reply. Then, after a couple more blows, he appeared to wake up and rushed at Lewis, landed two blows but was not able to follow them up.

From then on it became a procession of winning rounds for Lewis, with the jab, the chopping right and, when close in, a short right uppercut, piling up the points. Holyfield had his moments but was unable to take advantage of any of them. Lewis either held or moved out of range quickly.

Throughout, Lewis boxed with care but not without flair. He is an extremely gifted boxer and can be relied on to unleash beautiful punches inside from all angles.

Holyfield was not finished and made one further attempt, in the tenth, to land a knockout punch. He caught Lewis with two blows and forced him to hold. As Holyfield put on the pressure, Lewis seemed to be weakening somewhat but he somehow managed to prevent clean blows landing on his chin. In the eleventh, Holyfield tried to follow up this momentary advantage but Lewis, with his pawing jab, kept him out.

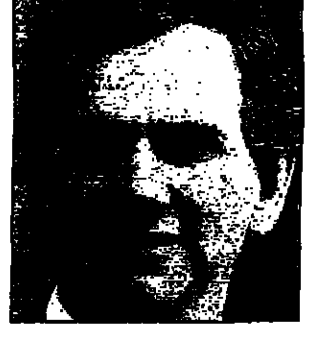
The last round was a good one for Lewis, as realising he was well ahead, he shimmied and danced round Holyfield, picking him off easily with the jab. At the bell, he raised his right hand to signify victory. But as lustily as his supporters acknowledged his signal, their cheers soon turned to boos when the official result was announced.

SPLIT DECISION: HOW THE JUDGES SCORED IT

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
LARRY O'CONNELL (Britain)													
Holyfield	9	9	10	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	115
Lewis	10	10	9	10	10	9	10	9	9	10	9	10	115
STANLEY CHRISTODOULOU (South Africa)													
Holyfield	9	9	10	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	9	113
Lewis	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	10	10	116
EUGENIA WILLIAMS (United States)													
Holyfield	9	9	10	10	10	9	9	10	10	10	10	9	115
Lewis	10	10	9	9	9	10	10	9	9	9	9	10	113

Lewis a dual winner even if ultimate prize goes begging

ROB HUGHES



at Madison Square Garden

Lennox Lewis is the winner without the crown, but decidedly a more mature and better man this morning. As he stood in Madison Square Garden in the early hours of yesterday morning, he had two-thirds of what he came for: the respect of the boxers of the world as well as what all of them crave — money. His efforts mean his bank balance is today $10 million (about £6.65 million) healthier.

What he lacked, and what no amount of lamentation over the decidedly inept judging will rectify, was the title of being the only British-born heavyweight this century to be acclaimed "undisputed champion of the world".

There is still time, especially as Evander Holyfield, his opponent on Saturday night, has since said repeatedly that there will be a rematch. And if the accountancy is true, if this bout in New York has generated something approaching $70 million in takings, then even against the better judgment of those who might care for the palpably declining Holyfield, there will indeed be a second contest to unify the titles before this year is through.

Whether boxing fans will be lured to it with quite such anticipation, or with belief that justice can be delivered in the ring, is another matter. For if there was neither a winner nor a loser in the eyes of the supposedly independent three judges, then boxing itself is on the ropes. Some followers cling to the belief that the sport is indestructible; yet in the ring on Saturday, especially when two women fought a bloody contest on the undercard, it looked absolutely perishable. It will be even harder to protect if more verdicts go the way of this one.

In the aftermath of the contest, after the majority of 21,284 spectators had dispersed, Larry Merchant, a veteran Washington reporter, said: "I'm ashamed to be a fight fan and an American."

Others bandied around unacceptable words, they said the contest was "a fix", "a tragedy". The second of those two statements rankles deeply, for neither boxer, nor the sport, suffered a tragedy. Tragedy is what befell an 18-year-old basketball player in Colombus, Indiana, earlier in the day, for he, a freshman standing 7ft tall, collapsed and died on the court. The newspapers in New York did not find a paragraph for him. He remained anonymous.

With all the clamour at Madison Square, all the celebrities drawn like a magnet, neither Lewis nor Holyfield would begin or end this night remotely anonymous. Up to 6,000 Lewis supporters had flown to New York, or were they merely the underclass of Wembley Stadium, foul-mouthed nationalistic representatives who reviled and whistled down anything and everything American, including the supremely sung national anthem by D'Angelo. The crowd, apart from a tiny handful, included people who could not tolerate the dignity of a cathedral hush while ten bells tolled in respect to New York's baseball idol, Joe DiMaggio.

But officialdom in the United States, too, can be crass. After Lewis had entered the arena in a passive, almost trance-like state to reggae music, after Holyfield had come in singing aloud to a gospel theme, the announcer solemnly declared that "in the world's most famous arena, Madison Square Garden, we present the undefeated, undisputed beer of the world, Budweiser". They know, in Don King land, how to really stoke the inappropriate.

> 'The scoring of the fifth round was baffling'

So it was almost a mercy to turn the glare solely on two men seeking to punch the other into submission, almost a relief to finish the night arguing about nothing but the state of mind of judges. The three of them, Larry O'Connell, from Britain, Eugenia Williams, from the United States, and Stanley Christodoulou, concurred on precisely half of what they saw.

They gave rounds one and two unanimously to Lewis. Then, they rightly afforded Holyfield the third round — the round he had promised to secure victory. However, after that, the judges could not agree again until they recorded the eighth and ninth rounds both to Holyfield, and the twelfth and last round in unison to Lewis.

I do not have the expertise to dispute why the judges came to their respective conclusions. But the feeble attempts of Williams to fend off American interrogators after she had scored the bout by two clear rounds to her countryman, beggars belief.

The scoring of the fifth round, in particular, was baffling. The New York State Athletic Commission's handwritten scorecard showed a puzzling discrimination over a round that Lewis dominated — his left jab seemingly never to stray from the target of Holyfield.

O'Connell gave the round to Lewis, yet the total he recorded was difficult to decipher. Christodoulou actually altered his verdict, or the recordist did. But Williams scored the round, clearly, and amazingly, to Holyfield, despite the computer registering 43 contacts by Lewis to a paltry 11 by Holyfield.

It was crucial judging, it was also a turning point. For in America, where aggression counts more than style, Lewis appeared from that round to be controlled to the point of passivity.

He has a dignity strange to the jungle of heavyweight fighting — so much so that Americans such as Angelo Dundee, formerly the mentor Muhammad Ali, accuse him of not giving 100 per cent.

It is almost as if, with his man on the run, he does not want to devastate, or destroy, another human being in the ring. To be fair, given the warrior reputation of Holyfield, and given that only Lewis could decide whether his opponent remained dangerous and unimpaired by the continual sting of his own blows, he should be entitled to control the bout the way he wishes.

"When Lennox Lewis is 50 years old," Lewis himself, in his characteristic way using the third person, has said, "he's going to be able to get out of bed. When Evander Holyfield is 50, I don't think he'll be able to speak."

That was a reference to his own caution, to his inner control, his almost Olympian belief that boxing should be about how you score the points instead of how you can debilitate an opponent, or risk debilitation. Ultimately, in the madding arena at Madison Square, this strange passivity, this contradiction to the raw code of boxing, contributed in preventing the undisputed title from escaping America's shore.

But tragic? Absolutely not. That may come if there is a re-match, for looking at the resigned, almost apologetic Holyfield, one was bound to recall the sign in a car parked overnight at Central Park: "Tank empty," it read, "ignition not connected." Holyfield, after so many unholy wars, is almost empty as a world title contender.

Injustice takes a ringside seat

John Goodbody chronicles a history of contentious refereeing decisions

THE judgment of referees and umpires has always provoked controversy in sport. Over the centuries their decisions have delighted some and outraged others.

There was widespread criticism of the referee when Randolph Turpin lost his World Middleweight title in New York in 1951 to Sugar Ray Robinson. The referee stopped the contest in the tenth round with Turpin taking heavy punishment but with only eight seconds remaining. Even if he had gone down, Turpin would have lasted until the next round to fight an opponent who had suffered a badly-cut eye.

Henry Cooper, another of Britain's most popular boxers, lost his Commonwealth, European and British heavyweight titles in a most contentious decision when Harry Gibbs, at the time the premier referee in Britain, gave Joe Bugner the points verdict in 1971. Few people at ringside agreed.

There have been international disputes in both ice skating and gymnastics, both of which rely entirely on officials' opinions. Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean lost the Olympic title in 1994 when eight of the nine judges were not influenced by the more theatrical routines of the Britons, preferring the more technical exhibition of the Russian winners.

In gymnastics the Romanian team was ordered home by its Government from the 1977 European championships after a marking row over Nadia Comaneci, the 1976 Olympic champion.

Football also produces contentious decisions. Who can forget Newcastle's over-the-byline-cross that brought the equaliser against Arsenal in the 1932 FA Cup semi-final, Geoff Hurst's goal in the 1966 World Cup final or the "hand of God" incident involving Diego Maradona in the 1986 World Cup?

'It was my time to shine and they ripped me off'

REACTION

LENNOX LEWIS: "I'm so disappointed. It was my time to shine and they ripped me off. I'm the undisputed champion of the world and the whole world knows that. What happened there is what you call politics. I felt like I won the fight hands down. Holyfield should give me those belts. He knows they are mine."

EVANDER HOLYFIELD: "There ain't nothing like a man who, when he gets an opportunity, he shines. The man [Lewis] really shined. I never said he wasn't tough. The man showed he was tough. I'm not disappointed. I did all I could. The judges make the decision and I have to live with it. I can still get him. I guess I did the best I could. That's not my best, though."

GEORGE FOREMAN (former world heavyweight champion): "The Queen and all her subjects can be proud. Lennox Lewis proved he is no doubt the best heavyweight in the world today. He should forget about tonight. It's over. Just get up, dust your pants off, fight him again and knock him out next time."

EMANUEL STEWARD (Lewis's trainer): "Lennox and I are disgusted. I gave Evander three rounds at most. What I saw was Lennox working with a sparring partner, only we don't give them $20 million for their work. It was not even a close fight. This hurts boxing. I don't take it lightly, I take it with disgust."

DON KING (promoter): "They [judges] are human beings. It was significant that the British judge gave 115-115. Who am I to be guessing the judges? When you have a man on the ropes, you're supposed to finish him, not play chess with him. Evander has to face the great giant. Let's just get them back in the ring."

WALLACE MATTHEWS (*New York Post* columnist): "The fight plan may have been drawn up by the Lord, but the scorecards bore the mark of the devil. It was a night in which the glory and honour of boxing was supposed to return to its former home; instead, the stink returned to the air over the ring. Lennox Lewis beat Evander Holyfield from here to London — with stop-offs in Jamaica and Canada along the way."

FRANK MALONEY (Lewis's manager): "The look on 20,000 people's faces tells the whole story. We were robbed It's an absolute con. If I was Tony Blair I'd cut off all diplomatic relations with America. This result has set boxing back into the dark ages."

LOU DIBELLA (vice-president of Time Warner Sport): "I saw that the majority of people made Lewis the undisputed champion. The scoring was shocking. I didn't see it as a close fight but, even if I don't complain about the judge who made it a draw, how can anyone looking at the fight make Holyfield the winner by three rounds? It's impossible. That judge should not work again."

ROY JONES (World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion): "I feel ashamed about what happened tonight. I love Evander Holyfield, but Lennox Lewis did not lose it."

LOU DUVA (former trainer of Holyfield): "I think the decision was terrible. I had it 9-3. It wasn't that exciting a fight but Lewis absolutely won the fight."

CHRIS EUBANK (former world middleweight champion): "It was robbery. I can't understand how a British judge gave it a draw when Holyfield did not win more than two rounds. Lewis is the undisputed world champion."

FA Carling Premiership: Manchester United shrug aside European distractions with comfort

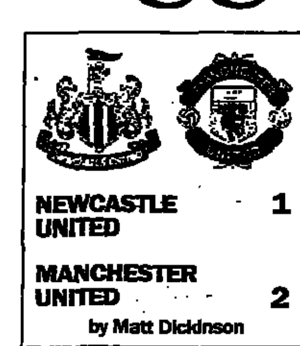
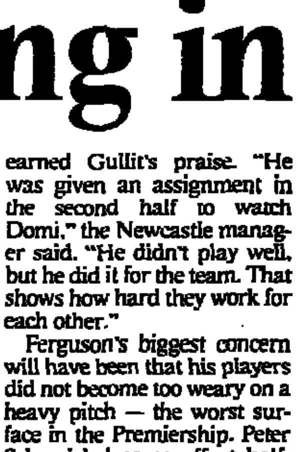
Newcastle fail to prevent Cole digging in

RUUD GULLIT took Alex Ferguson aside before kick-off on Saturday and did not spare his words. He told him to expect a match of fireworks and explosions. He talked of boiling tempers and extreme provocation. "Anyway, that's enough about Inter on Wednesday," Gullit concluded. "You'll walk all over my lot."

Admittedly, Gullit probably did not utter the last bit. But he might as well have done, such was the disdain with which Manchester United trampled on the notion that Newcastle United might provide an exacting test of their championship aspirations. Ferguson has had more stressful afternoons watching his racehorses.

There was a time, and one not so long ago, when a trip to St James' Park would have provided United with a perfect foretaste for the bear pit of the San Siro. A seething crowd, a gung ho team and no quarter asked or given. Not any more. "We were not competitive enough," Gullit admitted, and it is not rocket science to guess that Internazionale may offer something a little less dainty in the European Cup quarter-final second leg.

While Newcastle took the lead after just 15 minutes through Nolberto Solano's fine 25-yard free kick, they succeeded only in tweaking their opponents' tail. Manchester United were ahead shortly after half-time, and they played out the remainder of the match as if they had their minds on other matters. Which they did, of course. They fly out to Milan tomorrow and a probable meeting with Ronaldo in jaunty mood.

NEWCASTLE UNITED 1

MANCHESTER UNITED 2

by Matt Dickinson

Top of the FA Carling Premiership by four points, they would be marked down as certainties to win the championship were it not for the fact that they may be stretched thin by the demands of Europe. When Ferguson, as on Saturday, picks the team that he knows will win, as opposed to the one he hopes can triumph, only Arsenal can regard themselves as peers.

After Dwight Yorke's two goals at Chelsea in midweek, this was Andy Cole's turn to top up his account. A brace of close-range finishes ensured that he will go into the match on Wednesday hopeful of fulfilling Ferguson's prediction that his team, leading 2-0 after the first leg, will score in Milan. "Andy was lightning quick," the United manager said. "He's in the best form since he came to Old Trafford and getting better all the time." Cole's second was his fiftieth goal at St James' Park in his 48th game there.

Jaap Stam continued his impressive form by towering over Alan Shearer, and Yorke worked selflessly by performing a marking job on Warren Barton late in the game. Likewise David Beckham, who earned Gullit's praise. "He was given an assignment in the second half to watch Domi," the Newcastle manager said. "He didn't play well, but he did it for the team. That shows how hard they work for each other."

Ferguson's biggest concern will have been that his players did not become too weary on a heavy pitch — the worst surface in the Premiership. Peter Schmeichel came off at half-time, allegedly suffering from flu, but otherwise United seemed healthy in mind and body. There were traces of a limp as Cole walked to the team bus, but United will field their strongest line-up on Wednesday when, according to Gullit, they must keep their discipline.

"It will be very hostile," he said. "It will be like a boiling pot. The least little thing could explode. They are going to be provoked a lot. It all depends how they cope with that. There was one moment when it happened at Old Trafford and immediately some players got involved. Keane was involved and there was a yellow card.

"You must, must focus on the game all the time. There will be intimidation, theatre, backchat. It will be very clever. They will be trying everything to get you out of your concentration. There is no way in this country that you can experience that because it is cheating. But it is the Latino mentality."

Oh that Newcastle had mustered some of the same provocation. Timid in defence in the absence of the injured Howey, they were hopelessly meek in midfield, where only Hamann showed the urgency to try to change the course of the game.

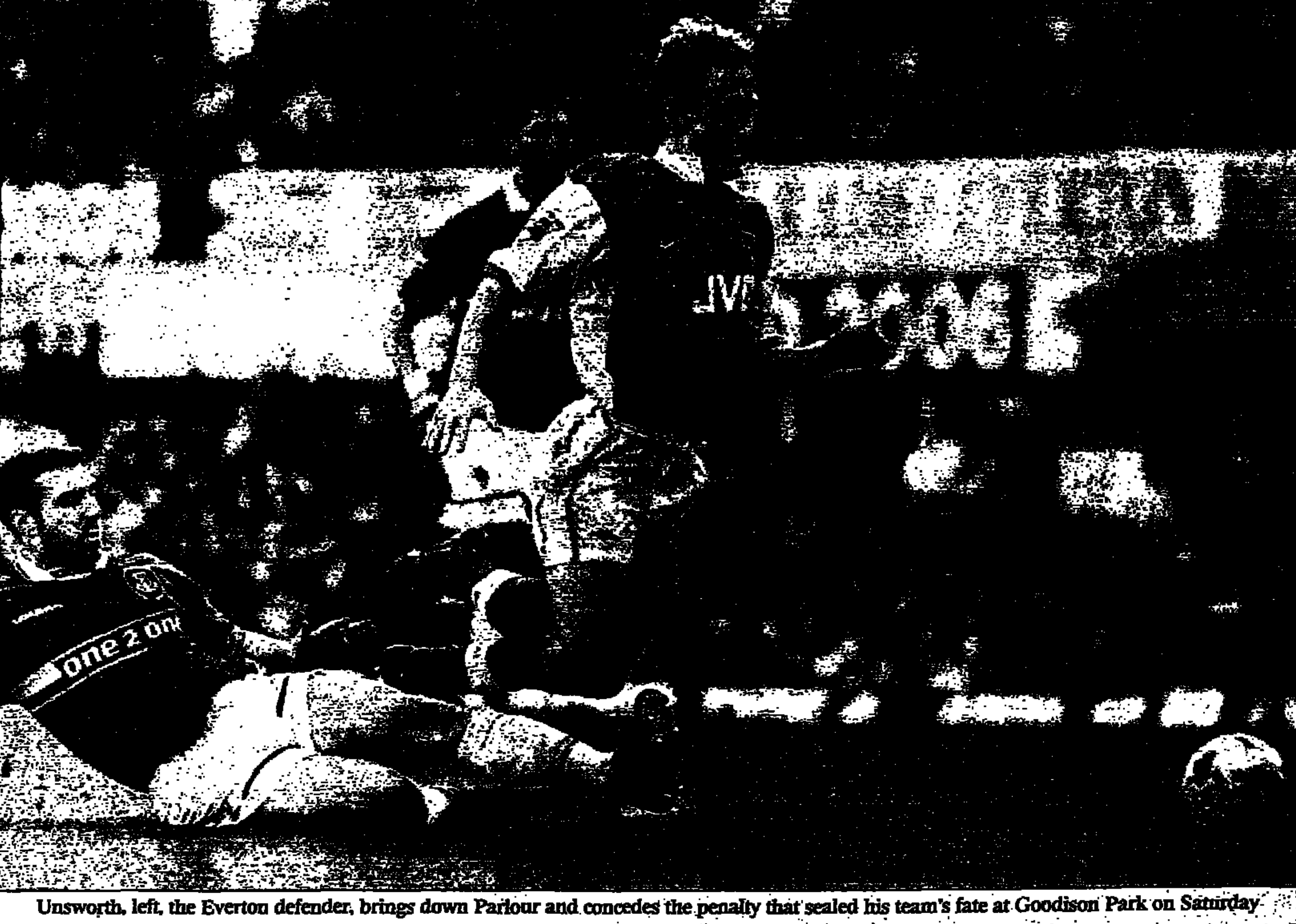
Up front, Shearer faded quickly after a lively start. "We are playing catch-up with United," the England captain said, but, as the man who twice turned down a move to Old Trafford, he has only himself to blame for that.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — W Barton (S Maric 83min), L Charvet, N Dabizas, D Domi — N Solano, D Hamann, G Speed, G Georgiadis (R Lee, 45) — A Shearer, T Ketsbaia (L Saha, 61)

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel (sub R van der Gouw, 45) — G Neville, H Berg, J Stam, D Irwin — D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes (sub P Neville, 86), R Giggs (sub R Johnsen, 73) — D Yorke, A Cole

Referee: D Elleray

Cole celebrates with Yorke after scoring his second goal



Unsworth, left, the Everton defender, brings down Parlour and concedes the penalty that sealed his team's fate at Goodison Park on Saturday

Disillusioned Petit threatens to leave

THE policy may be win at all costs, but those costs are beginning to spiral out of control and the efficacy of Arsène Wenger's rationale is being seriously undermined. How much longer he can balance indiscipline at his club and the wherewithal to claim important victories remains to be seen.

Three points from a fascinating encounter at Goodison Park on Saturday may have kept Arsenal in touch with Manchester United at the head of the FA Carling Premiership, but it also brought their seventh red card of the season, the 21st under Wenger's management and, worse still, exposed the disenchantment simmering within Emmanuel Petit.

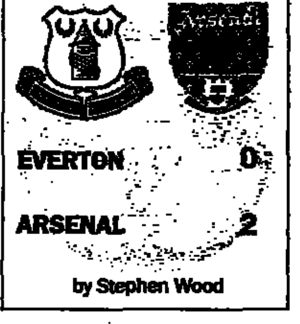
Petit, the midfield player, is experiencing some difficulty in adjusting to a season that, after the thrills of last year, when Arsenal achieved the Double and France won the World Cup, is rather mundane. Injury had sidelined him for six matches before he regained his place in the starting line-up on Saturday. The return lasted little more than an hour, whereupon he was sent off for the third time this season after committing a second bookable offence.

Petit, therefore, is facing another three-match suspension which, considering the influence he brings to bear on the Arsenal midfield in partnership with Patrick Vieira, could be a savage blow in their quest to defend the league title and FA Cup. One of the fixtures Petit will miss is the FA Cup semi-final against Manchester United next month.

However, there may be even more serious repercussions. Petit trudged down the tunnel, threw his shin pads away in disgust and was heard to say, in English: "That's me finished with English football." Arsenal will hope that Petit regrets what, in all probability, was a heat-of-the-moment comment.

"We hope that it does not drive Manu away from our game," Martin Keown, the Arsenal defender, said. "We will sit him down this week and try and pick him up."

However, there remains a theory that Petit, who is growing tired not only of the debilitating Premiership campaign but the frequency at which he is penalised by referees, could be tempted by a



EVERTON 0

ARSENAL 2

by Stephen Wood

move to Italian football this summer. Petit's actions at Highbury have often been viewed as embodying the general lack of discipline engendered by Wenger since he arrived 2½ years ago. It is an appalling record, but when you are successful, the desire to change is not particularly strong.

On this occasion, neither Wenger nor Petit could be held totally responsible. Petit's challenges, on Dacourt, the Everton midfield player, were mistimed rather than malicious. Uriah Rennie, the referee, had long since lost the faith of the players while the home crowd, incensed after the earlier dismissal of Don Hutchison, their striker, were baying for Rennie to even things up. Wenger acknowledged this, as well as Petit's lack of sharpness, when he said that he would not be fining his player. "I think Petit was just frustrated with himself," Wenger said, "and the Everton supporters wanted every one of our team sent off."

Walter Smith, the Everton manager, will follow Wenger's example and not take any action against Hutchison, who surprisingly was shown the red card after colliding with Keown after 21 minutes.

"I did not have a clue why I was sent off," Hutchison said. "Keown said I caught him in the Adam's apple, but it was nothing." Keown confirmed that his opponent was unfortunate to be punished so severely when he said: "It was not serious enough to damage me, and these things happen every week. The sending-off was harsh." The England defender has offered to speak on Hutchison's behalf if Everton, as expected, launch an appeal to get the red card overturned. However, as things stand, Hutchison will miss three matches — including the Merseyside derby against Liverpool.

For Arsenal, two moments of class — both involving Parlour — were enough to win the game on Saturday. After 15 minutes, Overmars found Parlour in space on the right and he placed his shot wide of Myhre.

Midway through the second half Parlour exchanged passes with Overmars and tempted Unsworth into a rash challenge inside the area. It was a clear penalty and Dennis Bergkamp duly dispatched it.

Parlour's contribution will have done his hopes of earning a call-up for to the England squad, to be announced on Thursday, no harm. Nor has it hampered Arsenal's ambitions although, ultimately, they may yet prove to be their worst enemy.

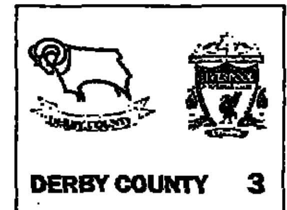
EVERTON (4-4-2): T Myhre — R Dunne (sub: T Grant, 25min), D Watson, M Materazzi, M Ball — D Weir, O Dacourt, D Unsworth, N Barmby (sub: F Jeffers, 74) — I Bakayoko (sub: D Cadamarteri, 74), D Hutchison.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, T Adams, M Keown, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars (sub: M Upson, 86) — N Anelka (sub: N Vivas, 63), D Bergkamp.

Referee: U Rennie

History offers no veil for Houllier's crumbling forces

BEFORE Heysel, Liverpool's right to a place in Europe went unquestioned. They featured in one of the competitions for 21 successive years, often with flair and distinction. Unless Gérard Houllier resolves the glaring weakness in a side that is a shadow of its forbears, the prospect of competing in the Uefa Cup can be dismissed, not just this season but far beyond.



DERBY COUNTY 3

LIVERPOOL 2

by Richard Hobson

The Liverpool manager could not excuse an abject defensive performance on Saturday when his back three seemed unable to perform the most elementary of tasks. Sadly for Houllier, it was hardly a one-off aberration. As Jamie Redknapp, the captain, said: "We have not been inconsistent this season. We have consistently played at a level that is not good enough."

Twice, in the first half, Derby County scored with headers from a set-piece. Burton left Song leaden-footed as he met a corner by Bohinen before Wanchope, without a goal for two months hitherto, outjumped Matteo. In the 49th minute, a line of defenders looked towards the linesman while Wanchope ran on to a long free kick by Stimac and shot beyond James.

Birmingham surge 30
Ronaldo returns 31
Results, tables 32

Houllier blamed a lack of concentration in all three instances. "I think this game highlights our problems," he said. "Unless we make a wonderful run, it will be very difficult in the race for Europe. We have six home games and four away, so it is not time to commit suicide yet, but it would be a considerable blow if we did not get there."

By choosing not to select a fit Steve McManaman in his side, Houllier effectively suggested that he was looking already towards next season.

Jim Smith, the Derby manager, resisted a grin when questioned about the Liverpool defending. "I just thought we played very well," he said, at the end of a week in which his side have also beaten Aston Villa and moved level on points with the Midlands club. "The disappointment was that we did not get more goals."

Derby, completing a rare double against the Anfield side, have generated a momentum that could sweep them into Europe for the first time since 1977. Burton's confidence is growing by the game and Baiano, although at fault for both of the Liverpool goals, has returned to form and fitness to play behind the front pair at an important time.

Liverpool's best moments occurred through Owen. He looked every bit the prodigy of France when he ran at defenders and was badly missed in the second half, substituted as a precaution against a minor hamstring strain. Owen won a penalty, converted by Fowler, when he fell under a tackle by Prior, and created another good opening for his fellow striker.

Had an attempt by Bohinen not been turned off the line by Matteo, when Derby led 3-1, then Liverpool might have left Pride Park severely embarrassed. Instead, five minutes later, Fowler met a low cross by Matteo to ensure a lively and somewhat flattering conclusion.

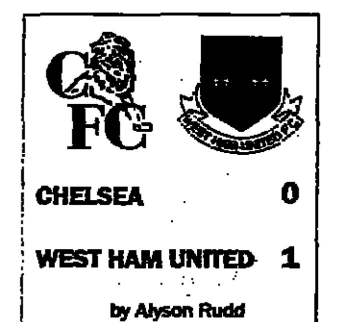
DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): R Hoult — S Prior, I Stimac, J Laursen — S Elliott (sub: K Harper, 82min), D Powell, L Bohinen, S Schnoor (sub: H Carbonari, 66) — F Baiano (sub: V Borbokis, 86) — D Burton, P Wanchope

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — P Song, S Staunton (sub: S T Bjornebye, 22), D Matteo — V Heggem, J Redknapp, S Gerrard, P Berger, D Matteo — R Fowler, M Owen (sub: K Riedle, 46)

Referee: G Barber

Vialli concedes title race as Chelsea charge falters

IT COULD have been a trick of the light, but it seemed that Gianluca Vialli's eyes bore a twinkle. He anticipated that the theme of the weekend, after Chelsea's first home defeat at Stamford Bridge in the FA Carling Premiership this season, would be that his club have now dropped out of the title race and everyone who was asked about it, be they from Chelsea or West Ham United, plumped for the phrase about it being a two-horse race.



CHELSEA 0

WEST HAM UNITED 1

by Alyson Rudd

Vialli struggled to remember the precise English wordage, so keen was he to emphasise that it is all over for Chelsea, but he remembered there were horses involved, and only two of them. It was gentle and without bitterness, but it was surely not an honestly held belief for Chelsea, while not at their best, are but tugs and tweaks from regaining their old imperiousness.

While Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, beamed over his choice of negative tactics, practically giving an Oscar-worthy speech, with his wife thanked profusely for her contribution, it would be naive not to concede that this was a most fortunate victory for the East London team. For, wider issues aside, it was curious that Dan Petrescu was penalised, having been muscled out of possession by Keller, and from the resultant free kick Marc-Vivian Foe apeared to climb all over Babayaro in order to head the ball down into Kitson's path. Kitson scored, but only just. De Goey so nearly kept the ball out with his legs but turned to see the ball creep over the line.

But in order to judge the path of the title race, the wider issues are what matter. Chelsea were blessed, or even dogged, by an abundance of strikers at the beginning of the season. There were jealous mutterings from the rest of the Premiership and Vialli's tendency to rotate his talent was laughed at until it became clear it was all too effective. There was genuine surprise that Vialli possessed such a ruthless streak and then awe that, far from creating havoc with the club's camaraderie, such an unsentimental approach served only to strengthen morale.

Chelsea's collection of international footballing mercenaries had become a strong-willed unit drilled in the desire to win. There is no longer that paradox at the club and that is what is at the heart of their present malaise.

Suddenly, Vialli sounds avuncular. He was offered the cash to improve the team but turned it down: "I just didn't want to touch the squad I already had. The spirit was great. If that was a mistake, then it's my mistake." However, all Chelsea need is a no-frills forward to see out the remainder of the season without a sense of underachievement. Against West Ham, they ached for a striker in the mould of Huckerby or Sutton or Cottee, a player who just wants to score and does not mind how many tap-ins comprise his goal tally. Flo returned to first-team action after injury a month ago without any reserve-team football to ease his re-entry. It shows. He is playing with a reserve-team mentality, opting for caution when the game is crying out for instinct.



Flo, left, is denied by Pearce

How ironic that when everything Flo touched seemed to result in a goal, Vialli insisted on using him sparingly. On Saturday, Forssell, the young Finland striker, was given seven minutes to rescue the match. He almost did, but needed, not surprisingly, to have had more of a feel of the game to put a good opportunity on target, rather than a foot over the bar.

It is also mysterious that Vialli acknowledges how much the team are missing those bursts of power from Gustavo Poyet but he has done so little to try to replicate them. Poyet may well feature in the final games of the season but a little mimicry from his team-mates on Saturday would have assisted their cause enormously.

Chelsea have a miserable habit of passing the ball sideways as if scared of any sort of gamble. But for Goldbaek, it is doubtful they would have ventured beyond the halfway line against West Ham. Redknapp's back line defended well but they rarely had to contend with the element of surprise and, with Zola available to ensure that adventurous runs become incisive, Chelsea were guilty of a lack of imagination.

Vialli has now served his suspension and can start once again to be more ruthless with his selection policy. This is not a good time to go soft or misty-eyed.

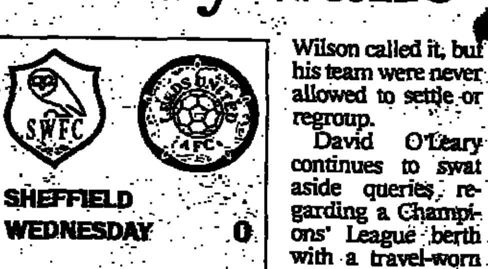
CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — A Ferrer, M Desailly (sub: M Duberry, 60min), A Myers (sub: M Forssell, 83), G Le Saux (sub: D Petrescu, 60) — B Goldbaek, D Wise, R Di Matteo, C Babayaro — T A Flo, G Zola

WEST HAM UNITED (4-5-1): S Hislop — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, N Ruddock, S Minto — T Sinclair, F Lampard, M-V Foe, S Lomas, M Keller (sub: S Potts, 88) — P Kitson

Referee: S Lodge

Signs encouraging for Leeds as Wednesday wane

"OWLS," the sign reads, bloated capitals leaping from the wall of the gentlemen's toilets inside Hillsborough. From each of the letters, a little motto follows: one promoting "family values", another guarding against the use of obscenities. Perplexingly, given the events that followed, the S does not stand for "silence" but safety.



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0

LEEDS UNITED 2

by George Caulkin

"It's one of the most passionate games of the season here," the pitch-side announcer had warbled in the seconds before kick-off, a bold statement duly rewarded with the din of rustling crisp packets, a cacophony of slurping on plastic straws, the odd suppressed yawn.

That was just the build-up. At one stage, excitement reached the dizzy levels of general murmuring. The exceptions from this were the travelling supporters of Leeds United who, 20 minutes inside the match, were greeting every touch of the ball by their players with gleeful, sardonic "*olés*." Brace yourselves for the end of this sentence, for it is neither easy to write nor gentle on the eyes, but Leeds — the team of Hunter, Bremner and breeze-block tackles — are now a genuine pleasure to watch. Ouch.

"I've never known such a quiet derby game," Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager, said. There were at least two plausible reasons for this. Firstly, Leeds played well and Wednesday did not, prompting a lopsided afternoon that could have brought United a hatful of goals. Only the agility of Pavel Srnicek and the wayward sights of his aggressors kept the scoreline respectable.

It is no coincidence that for the second time in four days against Leeds, opposition managers have bemoaned their sides' worst performance of the season. Rubbish, Wilson called it, but his team were never allowed to settle or regroup.

David O'Leary continues to swat aside queries, regarding a Champions' League berth with a travel-worn weariness, as if the nonsense of the supposition should be obvious to all, but after five successive league victories, Chelsea are suddenly within touching distance. Consider the spine of this team — Martyn, Radebe, Batty, Kewell — and re-examine O'Leary's modesty. United's fourth-minute goal — a well-drilled free kick that Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink sneaked in off the near post around a skinny defensive wall — should perhaps have put the onus on Wednesday, but a midfield of Batty, Hopkin and Bowyer effectively put paid to that.

By half-time, they warranted a margin of at least three goals, with Srnicek smothering close-range shots from Smith and Hasselbaink, but it was not until deep inside a largely drab second half that dominance told. Hasselbaink successfully released Hopkin and though Srnicek again managed to get his body in the way, the Scotland midfield player continued his run to turn in the rebound.

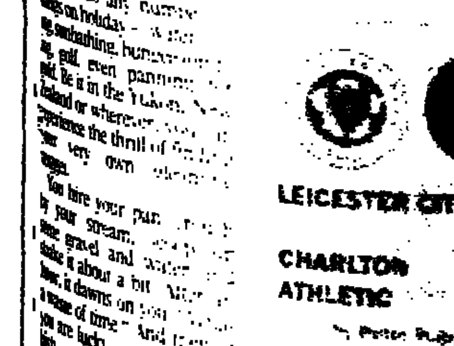
To make matters worse for Wednesday attendances are down at Hillsborough by more than five per cent this season and only 28,000 were present for this skirmish. Not going down, not winning anything, optimism grumpily refuses to hold. Imagine that: the home of the Owls and barely a hoot.

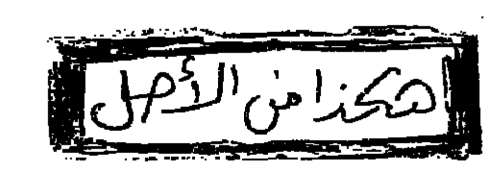
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P Srnicek — P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe — N Alexandersson, D Sonner (sub: L Briscoe, 32min), W Jonk, P Rudi — A Booth, R Humphreys (sub: J Agogo, 49)

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-1-2): N Martyn — A Haaland, J Woodgate, L Radebe (sub: D Wetherall, 85), I Harte — L Bowyer, D Batty, D Hopkin — H Kewell (sub: W Korsten, 87) — A Smith, J F Hasselbaink.

Referee: G Poll

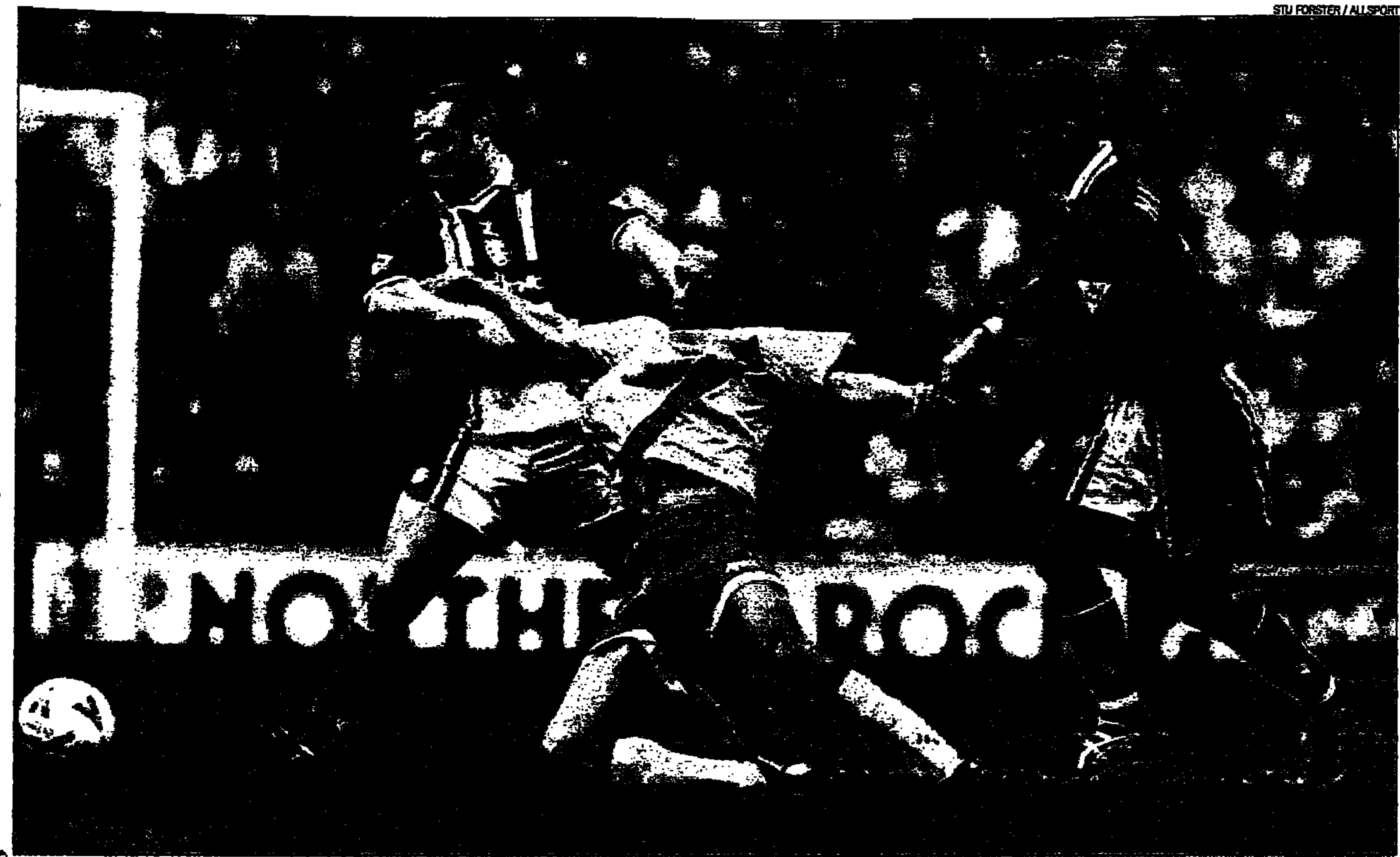






FA Carling Premiership: Middlesbrough arrest their slide towards danger zone

STU FORSTER / ALLSPORT



Kachloul, Southampton's Moroccan midfield player, slides between two Middlesbrough defenders to win the ball in the relegation struggle at the Riverside Stadium yesterday

All's well that ends well for Robson

IF THERE has been a Shakespearean dimension to the recent fortunes of Middlesbrough, it would seem more appropriate to point at tragedy than comedy. Enough knives in the back to dispatch Caesar, a surfeit of toil and trouble and, in Bryan Robson, a complex figure experiencing the same private turmoil as a certain Danish prince.

There remains, however, a fundamental similarity with Orsino in Twelfth Night: a man too wrapped up in the concept of being in love to fall in love himself. Middlesbrough — the club and its supporters — have the same fickle relationship with football; there is a sense that, such has been the speed of their rebirth, that they remain mired in an uneasy, emotional adolescence.

The riotous reaction to this victory, which restored a hint of stability to a season which had threatened to turn into a remorseless slide towards relegation, bordered on the hysterical.

What a stark contrast to the previous fortnight which had been filled with calls for action of the most drastic sort. Change the personnel; switch the tactics, even trade-in the manager. One win and and all the panic and criticism evaporates as if by magic.

More cynical souls recalled a similar reaction to another result, back in the dark mists of December, when Robson's side, then in fourth place, travelled to Old Trafford and returned from that stronghold with three points.

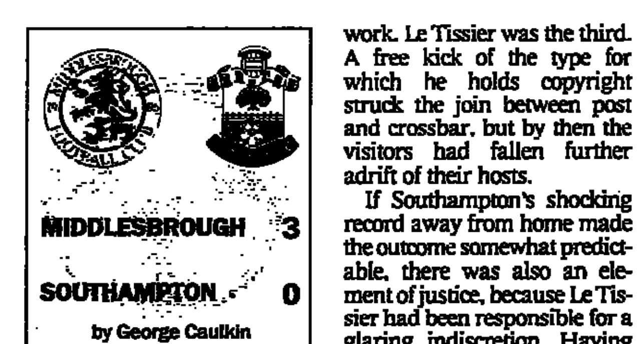
European football seemed there for the asking. Even the championship was spoken of as an outside possibility. But these dreams evaporated because, just like in Middlesbrough's previous incarnation in the FA Carling Premiership, the foundations proved unsound and subsidence became inevitable.

Beating Southampton may not mean that the construction has been safely shored up, but at least some of the cracks have been repaired, despite the absence yesterday of four players due to suspension, among them Paul Gascoigne.

"We knew it was a pressure game that we couldn't afford to lose, but a few of my senior professionals really stood up to it. We're not safe yet, but that's a big step closer," Robson said

The dressing-room may not be riven asunder by its disparate personalities, as it was two years ago, but fragilily lurks inside. Confidence is tied to the mood of the crowd by a thread that threatens to snap each time a pass is misplaced or, just as frequently, Mikkel Beck shoots unerringly at the advertising hoardings.

By the time that Beck, the Denmark striker, scored Middlesbrough's first goal of 1999, both tempers and composure were fraying markedly. The latter could be ascribed to Middlesbrough's courtship of the



MIDDLESBROUGH 3
SOUTHAMPTON 0
by George Caulkin

Southampton goal, which had begun at an early stage, when Gordon's turf-hugging shot thudded against the right-hand post, but was not consummated until the 43rd minute.

Then Beck had the good fortune to be dawdling inside the six-yard box to take advantage after Festa had become the second player to strike the woodwork. Le Tissier was the third. A free kick of the type for which he holds copyright struck the join between post and crossbar, but by then the visitors had fallen further adrift of their hosts.

If Southampton's shocking record away from home made the outcome somewhat predictable, there was also an element of justice, because Le Tissier had been responsible for a glaring indiscretion. Having already been shown his seventh yellow card of the season, he diced with further censure by raising his hand to block a free kick from Neil Maddison which appeared likely to curl around the defensive wall.

Even without the benefit of the TV replay, the offence seemed not only obvious but also deliberate. It was impossible to understand how Le Tissier escaped dismissal, although, in the final analysis, it did not matter a jot.

Middlesbrough's goal tally for the year was doubled only moments after it opened when Paul Jones tore off his line to meet Robbie Stockdale's vague punt forward, only for Hamilton Ricard to tease the ball around him to score an awfully simple goal. In the 62nd minute, Steve Vickers, with a nonchalant side-footed shot, converted Maddison's corner.

Southampton, had they won, would have left the bottom three for the first time since last August. Now the future is looking bleak for David Jones and his team, even though five of their remaining games are at home.

In truth, Southampton were quite awful. "We were lucky they didn't score two or three more," Jones said. "From the first minute until the last we just didn't perform. We looked like we were on the bus." Their only option? Like music and love — to play on.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — G Festa, S Vickers, C Cooper — R Stockdale, P Stamp (sub B Deane, 71min), R Mustoe, N Maddison, D Gordon — H Ricard (sub: A Campbell, 82), M Beck.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, P Colleter — M Oakley (sub: S Ripley, 60), C Marsden, H Kachloul — M Le Tissier — J Beattie (sub: E Ostenstad, 88), M Hughes.

Referee: M Reed

Rations run thin in fight for survival



COVENTRY CITY
BLACKBURN ROVERS
by Russell Kempson

BRIAN KIDD thought long and hard before leaving for the front line. His place in the trenches at Old Trafford was safe and never would he have to raise his head above the parapet while Alex Ferguson stayed in charge. General Ferguson took the flak and Private Kidd manned the supply lines with due care and consideration. It was the perfect combination.

But the call came from Ewood Park, barked by "Uncle" Jack Walker and backed by his promise of plentiful ammunition, and the lure proved irresistible. Blackburn Rovers were at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership and needed rescuing. Kidd's play it was not, but it was time to go. Over the top he went.

Three months later, Kidd surveys the battlefield and grimaces at the sight before him. The initial flurry of success has subsided, his troops are depleted and the guns lie silent. All that remains is willpower, the determination to conquer overwhelming odds, that indefinable strength of the soul. Without it, Rovers would be dead already.

At Highfield Road on Saturday, on a sand-and-mud surface fit only for skirmishing, Blackburn earned a point that keeps them alive. It was far from pretty and, at times, degenerated into a series of petty squabbles, but the spirit shone through and made for a peculiarly engrossing spectacle.

Coventry City face the spectre of relegation, too, and had they won — as they threatened to do for much of the game — they might have ruled themselves out of the equation. It would have given them a seven-point advantage over Blackburn, the eighteenth-placed club, and valuable breathing space for the always fraught run-in.

Kidd spoke eloquently of the fight ahead. "Not once have I thought about relegation. It has never crossed my mind," he said. "I have no self-pity. I don't feel sorry for myself. Why should I? I am very honoured to have got the job at Blackburn.

"With what we've got left, we've given everything. If they've tried their best, I can't ask for anything more. I know that if there is a new player that I want, I can go to Mr Walker and he will back me to the hilt. But I'm not going to buy just for buying's sake. I want to develop the club. I want to take it forward from within."

Blackburn fell behind in the 22nd minute, when Aloisi turned delightfully on to Boateng's low, near-post cross and thumped a right-footed volley past Filan. He should have ended the contest early in the second half from Telfer's cross, after McAllister's magnificent 40-yard crossfield pass, but headed the ball hard into the ground instead of the net. It bounced once and cleared the crossbar.

Competing vigorously — Sutton's stray elbow on Konjic, fortuitously, went unnoticed — and belying the inexperienced nature of an alarmingly understrength squad, Blackburn's studious approach was rewarded in the 68th minute. Johnson squirmed free on the right and his teasing centre was dispatched by Wilcox.

It was an earnest scrap and, once the smoke had cleared, little had been resolved. Sutton is a long way from full fitness and despite the claims from Kidd that Glenn Hoddle, the former England coach, was considering the striker for an international recall shortly before his removal from office, he is unlikely to figure in the plans of Kevin Keegan, Hoddle's part-time successor, when he announces his squad this week for the European championship qualifying game against Poland.

"There'll be a few more twists and turns before the end of the season," Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, said. "I hope it doesn't go to the last game but, if it does, we'll be ready for the challenge." Shell-shocked, perhaps, but so, too, will Blackburn.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2) M Hedman — R Nilsson, M Konjic (sub: P Clement, 89min), R Shaw, D Burrows — G Boateng, G McAllister (sub: D Huckerby, 70), P Telfer, S Froggatt — N Whelan, J Aloisi.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2). J Filan — J McAteer, S Henchoz, M Taylor, C Davidson — D Dunn (sub D Johnson, 60) D Marcolin, M Jansen (sub. D Duff, 52), J Wilcox — A Ward, C Sutton.

Referee: S Dunn.



Christian Edwards, of Nottingham Forest, quickly snuffs out the danger presented by Marcus Gayle, of Wimbledon.

Absent minds grant Forest some relief



WIMBLEDON 1
NOTTINGHAM FOREST 3
by Nick Szczepanik

IF ANYONE thinks this result says much about the chances of Nottingham Forest clinging to their FA Carling Premiership status, they should think again. Forest did not play well; they were just marginally the less awful of two poor teams. They survived a torrid opening, scored a fluke goal, then massed in defence and relied upon breakaways.

It helped that Wimbledon are in a wretched run of form. Elements of their crowd are unconvinced of the qualities of Joe Kinnear, the manager, who remains some way from being able to resume his duties after suffering a heart attack twelve days ago, but for long periods of the game they were presented with a vision of Wimbledon without him: rudderless, disjointed, at odds with each other and — who ever expected to read or write this? — not quite up for it.

David Kemp, the coach, refused to use the uncertainties about Kinnear's health as an excuse. "I was prepared to make allowances last week, but not this," he said. "Our thoughts are with Joe, but we've got to get back to work and start winning matches again."

They could have done without an erratic display from Neil Sullivan, the goalkeeper. While Mark Crossley, his opposite number, made an important early save, deflecting a close-range header by John Hartson over the crossbar, Sullivan stood rooted to the spot as Alan Rogers's misdirected cross found the far corner of his goal, and his team's early confidence drained away.

After another bright start to the second half, Wimbledon were again deflated by a Forest goal, Freedman lobbing the unprotected Sullivan. Throwing caution to the wind, they finally converted one of a number of chances, Gayle scoring from close range, but Forest made sure of victory when Pierre van Hooijdonk headed on Crossley's goal kick for Shipperley to beat Sullivan at his near post.

Van Hooijdonk caught the eye throughout. Playing in a deeper role than usual, he created a number of chances and seemed more a part of the team in every sense than he did immediately after his self-imposed exile. Steve Stone, supposedly his fiercest critic in the dressing-room, has now left, and the change of management at the club in January helped.

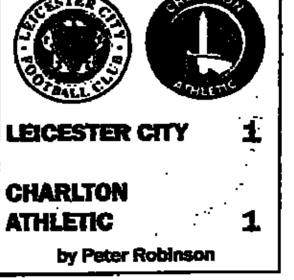
Shreeves and Ron Atkinson, the manager, are contracted to Forest only until the end of the season, but both, Shreeves hinted, would like to stay. Which division Forest will be in, he would not speculate — wisely, with the team still eight points behind seventeenth place. "We play Middlesbrough at home next week, " he said. "If we could get something out of that game, it could become very interesting." The situation, perhaps, if not the football.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2). N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry (sub E Ekoku, 59min), B Thatcher, A Kimble — N Ardley, A Roberts (sub. J Euell, 72), R Earle, M Kennedy (sub: M Hughes, 72) — J Hartson, M Gayle.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (5-2-1-2) M Crossley — M Louis-Jean, C Edwards, J Mattson, S Chettle, A Rogers — A Johnson (sub C Bart-Williams, 45), C Palmer — P Van Hooijdonk — D Freedman, N Shipperley.

Referee: K Burge

Leicester's gold is stolen



LEICESTER CITY 1
CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1
by Peter Robinson

YOU can do any number of things on holiday — water skiing, sunbathing, bungee jumping, golf, even panning for gold. Be it in the Yukon, New Zealand or wherever, you can experience the thrill of finding your very own gleaming nugget.

You hire your pan, crouch by your stream, scoop up some gravel and water and shake it about a bit. After an hour, it dawns on you: "What a waste of time." And then, if you are lucky, amid the rubbish, something will glisten.

Watching Leicester City is a bit like that at the moment. A boring sift through worthless pebbles followed by golden moments. It happened against Wimbledon last week and it happened against Charlton Athletic on Saturday.

An hour of dross and then some dazzle. Gerry Taggart won the ball deep in his own half, beat one man, then another, then another. The crowd applauded, he gave the ball to Neil Lennon, he beat one man, raced forward, turned inside another, exchanged passes with Taggart on the edge of the Charlton penalty area and sent a gorgeous shot curling to the far post, where it struck the woodwork and bounced into the net. Perfection. Twenty-four carats.

Well, actually, no. It was fool's gold, and worth just a point in FA Carling Premiership currency. Charlton equalised in injury time. A goal fit to win any game failed to win one even as mediocre as this.

Even the controversy was submerged by the general malaise. Charlton had two people sent off, for example. Mervyn Day, the assistant manager, was banished from the touchline just before half-time for verbal abuse of the referee. "He didn't swear," Alan Curbishley, his manager, said. Of course not, that is why he was dismissed. Keith Jones followed in the second half after picking up a second booking. "He thought the first was a bit harsh," Curbishley said — and that was about as heated as the protests got.

The goal, too, that was dramatic. Charlton's first meaningful shot of the day, in the 92nd minute, after Taggart had comically headed a throw by Mills to Mendonca, lurking at the far post. A simple tap-in. Yet Charlton seemed almost sheepish about it, slightly embarrassed. Fair-minded to a man, they knew an injustice had been done and it was their fault. Still, if it saves them from relegation, then the point will be absolutely priceless.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — M Elliott, G Taggart, S Walsh — R Savage, N Lennon, M Izzet, R Ullathorne, S Guppy — I Marshall, E Heskey (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 78min).

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (3-5-2) S Ilic — R Rufus, S Brown, C Tiler — D Mills, M Kinsella, N Redfearn (sub J Barnes, 73), K Jones, C Powell — M Pringle (sub. S Jones, 73), A Hunt (sub: C Mendonca, 73)

Referee: A Wilkie

City deny takeover rumours

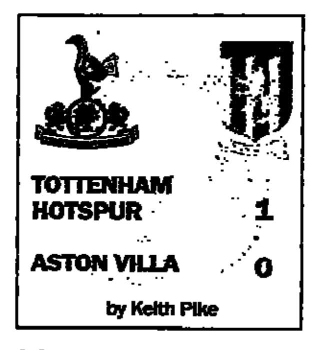
MANCHESTER City yesterday denied that they were involved in discussions with David Murray, the chairman of Rangers, regarding a possible takeover (Stephen Wood writes).

Reports claimed that Murray, one of the wealthiest men in Britain, was planning to acquire a 51 per cent majority shareholding in the Nationwide League second division club.

David Bernstein, the City chairman, has gone public with his desire to attract £20 million of investment to the Maine Road club. However, Chris Bird, the chairman's assistant, said: "These are just rumours. No deal is on the table and no negotiations have been going on."

It is believed that Murray was interested in City last season, but rules prohibiting the ownership of a Scottish and English league club by one person prevented that interest from going any further.

Gregory takes stock of reality



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1
ASTON VILLA 0
by Keith Pike

IT IS a bit rich when the manager who has spent the equivalent of the gross national product of a small country starts berating himself for being tightfisted. But while rivals such as Alan Curbishley have nearer 30 bob to play with, there was John Gregory, £30 million of Aston Villa's money having gone in a year, saying without a hint of irony that underinvestment and underachievement go hand in hand.

Yet the really worrying thing is that he is probably right. The FA Carling Premiership casino may waive its dress code to allow scruffs like Curbishley's Charlton Athletic to enter, but only the high rollers can actually play. Look at Manchester United's substitutes' bench on Saturday (Solskjaer, Blomqvist, half the Neville brothers), look at Arsenal's (Kanu, Diawara, Vivas), then look at Villa's (Byfield, Delaney, Samuel) and look at the league table. Gregory has a point.

That was one more than his team managed at White Hart Lane, where the author as much as the manner of Villa's defeat added to Gregory's angst. Tim Sherwood was on a shortlist of transfer targets when Villa could have bought from a position of strength. Now Sherwood's scrambled late goal had left the one-time leaders 16 points off the pace and seven short even of a Uefa Cup place.

Still, although Villa have misplaced their early-season sharpness in front of goal, stability in defence and invention in midfield, along with seven of the past eight matches, their manager has obviously not lost his sense of humour completely. Tottenham's attacking style, he said, was like Wimbledon's and ... wait for it ... Steve Stone had enjoyed a pleasing debut marking Ginola, never mind that he got booked for fouling him on one of the few occasions he got near enough to attempt a tackle. But later, Gregory got serious as he pondered the injuries, physical and mental, that have wrecked Villa's season.

"I said I would never hide behind a lack of numbers, but it has not helped in the past few weeks that the team has almost picked itself," he said. "Players have been under no pressure for their places, and that isn't healthy.

"I still believe in them, but maybe the players have lost belief in themselves. They were flat out for the first part of the season, but after a defeat or two they started to doubt their ability. Maybe I should have added a couple of faces to keep the momentum going and I failed. It wasn't through lack of trying, but perhaps we should have pushed the boat out a little further than we did. I suppose there comes a point where you have to draw the line." Juninho, at £13 million, had strayed over it, and Villa appear a spent force.

As hard as they worked, Villa's lack of creativity was chronic and the impact of their forwards negligible. Tottenham, too, were below par, but they had made what few chances there were in a disjointed affair and probably deserved their luck when Bosnich parried Iversen's 88th-minute shot. Sherwood headed against the post and then tapped in the rebound after Wright's aborted attempt at a goalline clearance.

George Graham thought his Tottenham team should have been 3-0 up at half-time, but he ended with a duet from Gregory's songsheet. "When you see the big clubs keeping internationals on the bench, you know you have got a long way to go to catch them," he said.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) I Walker — S Carr, R Vega, S Campbell, M Taricco (sub: A Sinton, 78min) — A Nielsen, D Anderton, T Sherwood, D Ginola (sub: J Dominguez, 78) — L Ferdinand, C Armstrong (sub S Iversen, 78)

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2) M Bosnich — R Scimeca, G Southgate, G Barry — S Stone, L Hendrie, M Draper, A Thompson, A Wright — P Merson (sub: J Joachim, 67), S Collymore.

Referee: P Jones.

Nogan deepens Burnley blues

Burnley 0
Preston North End........1

By Stephen Wood

MAYBE they will not make the same mistake for a fifth time. The Burnley supporters took every opportunity to make Kurt Nogan, their former player, feel unwelcome yesterday, but he had the last laugh. His wonderful goal, the fourth time he has scored in four returns to Turf Moor, gave Preston North End the win with which to reclaim second place in the Nationwide League second division.

The booing of former players is an accepted part of football but, as Nogan said, it only seems to spur him on to greater things. With an hour played, Nogan glanced up before curling the ball over Crichton's head from 25 yards for his twentieth goal of the season.

With that, Burnley's hard work was undone. Theirs had been a daunting enough task already, after three successive home defeats. Stan Ternent, the Burnley manager, was set to resign after

Photograph 32

the 6-0 humiliation by Manchester City last week, only for an emergency board meeting to guarantee his future. Ternent insisted that he was not a quitter and, based on Burnley's gutsy performance, he seemed determined to instil the same quality in his players.

The home side were sprightly and created the earliest threat when Andy Payton hit a post after just seven minutes. The highly-rated Glen Little then drew two saves from Lucas, the Preston goalkeeper, as well as volleying against the crossbar.

"If we can keep showing the same improvements, we should be all right," Ternent said. However, a tense denouement appears likely because Burnley are now in the relegation zone. Last season they left it to the final day to ensure safety and it could be too close for comfort once again.

BURNLEY (5-3-2): P Crichton — A Pickering, S Davis, C Brass, G Armstrong (sub: P Eastwood, 72min), T Cowan — G Little, M Mellon, P Cook — A Payton, G Branch.
PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): B Lucas — J Darby, M Jackson, C Murdock, D Ludden — A Gray, S Gregan (sub: M Appleton, 35), M Rankine, D Eyres (sub: J Macken, 54) — S Basham, K Nogan.
Referee: C Wilkes.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: LEADING CONTENDERS FOR PROMOTION MAINTAIN HOPES WITH VICTORIES

Birmingham stay on right track

Birmingham City 4
West Bromwich Albion.......0

By Michael Henderson



Ndlovu, left, of Birmingham City, ignores the late lunge of Potter to scores the second of his team's four goals

TO SUPPORT Birmingham City is to volunteer for a life of misery, which is why the placard behind the goal at their splendidly refurbished St Andrew's ground is so funny. "Pride of the Midlands", it says, without a trace of irony or self-mockery.

"Embarrassment of the Midlands", more like, or "glorious joke best appreciated within the 0121 area". This is the club, lest one forgets, that has won only one trophy in its history, and that was when the League Cup held as much significance as the Erdington Vase. In a city where Aston Villa will always be the favoured sons, however poor their team, and close by are Wolverhampton and West Bromwich, towns with famous clubs (which, admittedly, have seen better times), Birmingham City often appear to be the invisible men. It is a long time since they had a side worth watching.

You have to go back 25 seasons to find the team that brought together Trevor Francis, Kenny Burns, Bob Latchford and Howard Kendall, and there have been far too many ructions to recount, on and off the field, in the intervening years. In as much as anybody thinks of them, they are seen as Birmingham's "other" team.

Now, with Francis well established as their manager, they are making genuine progress. The main stand still reeks of the old third division (north) but a record of one defeat in their past 15 games suggests they are serious about returning to what they remember as the first division. This handsome victory against their neighbours confirms them in fourth place, as they chase automatic promotion with Sunderland.

To the great delight of their supporters, they made West Brom look second-rate for much of this match. There were two goals for Dele Adebola, and one apiece for Peter Ndlovu and Martin Grainger. There should have been plenty more. Ndlovu, in particular, missed a couple of chances that any self-respecting striker would have expected to blow in.

Adebola's opening goal, after he had turned Carbon inside out to make himself an opportunity on his left side, was an example of wonderful finishing.

Shortly afterwards Ndlovu hit the post so that West Brom went in at half-time only one goal down when the game should already have been beyond them. They were overrun in midfield, where Hyde enjoyed a highly productive time, and De Freitas's ideas of leading the fight in attack seemed to consist mainly of moaning about the decisions of the referee.

Ndlovu finally managed to score five minutes after the interval, when he accepted Charlton's long pass from left back, jigged inside and shot left-footed. That was another good goal, a Carbon copy, one might say, as Carbon, the West Brom captain, was again the victim of trickery. Then Adebola notched his second, carrying the ball 40 yards and teasing Whitehead before rolling the ball gently past the floundering custodian.

"Ho ho!" the locals exclaimed. "We've debagged the Baggies today, and no mistake". Actually, they sang a less pleasant song about the Villa. Even on a good day, some of these people are always thinking of the team that plays across the meadow. Better by far to find another means of assertion. Envy won't do them much good.

Grainger's late goal completed an impressive performance though how good this team is, and whether the players are equipped for the top flight, are questions it is best not to answer too specifically at the moment. The failure of clubs like Bolton Wanderers and Nottingham Forest to put down firm roots there after dominating the first division offers scope for doubt. There are not too many players in this Birmingham side who stand out as bobby-dazzlers.

Still, their fans are enjoying these days and, after so many disappointments, it would take a heart of stone to begrudge them some early spring flowers. But go careful on that pride of the Midlands stuff. Some people have long memories.

BIRMINGHAM (4-4-2): K Poole — J Bass, G Rowett, M Johnson, S Charlton — G Hyde, M Grainger, M O'Connor (sub: J McCarthy, 64), B Hughes — D Adebola (sub: P Furlong, 84), P Ndlovu (sub: N Forster, 84).
WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): P Whitehead — A McDermott, D Burgess, M Carbon, G Potter (sub: S Murphy, 73) — S Flynn, R Sneekes, E Maresca (sub: M Bortolazzi, 71), K Kilbane — J Quinn (sub: M Angel, 61), F de Freitas.
Referee: T Heilbron.

Norwich fail to test Jewell's promotion hopefuls

Bradford City 4
Norwich City...........................1

By Martin Woods

JOE LOUIS, perhaps the greatest heavyweight boxing champion of the century, went through a phase of fighting almost once a month against no-hope chumps. These contests became known as Joe's Bum of the Month shows and, while they kept the Brooklyn Bomber's entourage in fine clothes and Bourbon, they rarely revealed much of the great fighter's complete repertoire of skills. These were reserved for his pedigree opponents.

Bradford City unexpectedly found themselves cast in the lesser Louis role on Saturday. In a strong position to reach the promotion play-offs, they encountered a Norwich City side who, for the first 45 minutes, were bereft of spirit and enterprise.

Bruce Rioch's team had left their football compass at home and Bradford trounced them. If Sepp Blatter, the Fifa president, had been there no doubt the idea of a referee being able to end a contest when one side is unable to defend itself, would have gained currency. The rout began in the

Results, tables, ...32

thirteenth minute when Stuart McCall floated a free kick into the box where Darren Moore, the Bradford defender, headed home unhindered. Twelve minutes later, Peter Beagrie scored from the penalty spot after Milligan had brought down Jamie Lawrence.

Under the circumstances, with Norwich's defence in full Worshipful Company of Strangers-mode, the third goal in the 34th minute was a peach in that one or two of them saw fit to contest the ball. Whalley passed to Beagrie on the left wing. He turned Sutch, the full back, before crossing to the near post for Lee Mills to head home his twentieth league goal of the season.

When Lawrence pounced on Bellamy's loose pass in the centre circle on the stroke of half-time, the Norwich defence reverted to statuesque type as he dribbled his way through to the box before shooting under Marshall.

Unless they had come out with blindfolds on, Norwich could not have played worse in the second half and Iwan Roberts scored the earliest consolation goal of the season three minutes into the half.

"The dressing room's a bit subdued. The lads wanted to go out and score a few more goals because that could mean an extra point come the end of the season," Paul Jewell, the Bradford manager, said. Seven of his side's remaining ten matches involve clubs in the bottom half of the league. Hardly bums of the month but preferable to getting into the ring with genuine contenders like Bolton, Birmingham and Ipswich must do.

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — L Todd (sub: A O'Brien, 73min), D Moore, J Dreyer, W Jacobs — J Lawrence, S McCall, G Whalley, P Beagrie — R Blake (sub: D Windass, 62), L Mills.
NORWICH CITY (3-5-2): A Marshall — C Fleming, L Marshall, M Mackay — D Sutch, P Grant (sub: A Forbes, 45), C Bellamy, M Milligan, C Wilson — I Roberts, K O'Neill (sub: C Llewellyn, 45).
Referee: A Wiley (Stafford).

Taylor restores calm to Bolton's nervous push

Bolton Wanderers 2
Queens Park Rangers 1

By A Correspondent

THE motivational skills of Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, could yet prove the most crucial factor in the club's attempt at a rapid return to the FA Carling Premiership.

For all the obvious talents of his multinational team, it was Todd's decision to restore the veteran striker, Bob Taylor, who was dropped for the midweek game against Barnsley, that ultimately decided the Nationwide League first division game against Queens Park Rangers at the Reebok Stadium. Taylor scored twice, the first his 200th career goal.

"It was important to win," Todd said. "Now we can travel to Sunderland on Saturday and go out and enjoy the game. There will be 40,000 people watching and, if we can't play in an atmosphere like that, we can't play anywhere."

Although Bolton's impressive Reebok Stadium may deserve football of a higher standing, the precarious manner in which Bolton succeeded suggests that those aspirations are far from guaranteed.

Before Taylor lunged bravely in the 31st minute to make contact with Scot Sellars's cross and put the home side in front, the visitors might well have gone ahead. Alarming defending allowed Tim Breacker a clear run on goal in the eighteenth minute but he struck his shot weakly and Jussi Jaaskelainen, the Bolton goalkeeper, saved with ease.

Taylor demonstrated the true art of finishing when he rounded off the best move of the match in the 58th minute. Claus Jensen began it deep in his own half, Michael Johansen created space over the halfway line before Jensen slipped a splendid reverse pass for Taylor to apply the master's touch from 12 yards.

In response, QPR changed tactics, utilising the speed of Chris Kiwomya, the substitute. They were rewarded with a 69th-minute penalty as Kiwomya's run was halted by the rash challenge of Mike Whitlow. Keith Rowland converted from the spot but, despite late pressure, QPR returned south still deeply involved in the relegation reckoning.

BOLTON (4-4-2): J Jaaskelainen — N Cox, M Fish, P Warhurst, M Whitlow (sub: A Todd, 81min) — M Johansen, C Jensen, P Frandsen, S Sellars — E Holdsworth (sub: E Gudjohnsen, 67), B Taylor.
QUEENS PARK RANGERS (3-5-2): L Miklosko — K Ready, M Rose, G Plummer (sub: K Rowland, 45) — T Breacker, L Jeanne (sub: C Kiwomya, 57), R Langley, P Murray, T Baraclough — R Steiner (sub: I Dowie, 83), K Gallen.
Referee: M Jones.

Ipswich refuse to gloat as Johnson signals intent

Ipswich Town 3
Huddersfield Town...............0

By Andy Stephens

THE resounding groan that greeted the Tannoy announcement revealing Norwich City had lost 4-1 reflects just how serious matters are becoming at Ipswich Town. Usually, the Portman Road faithful would have cheered this crushing defeat for their fiercest rivals in such a vociferous manner that anybody leaving the ground before the final whistle would be convinced they had missed a last-minute goal.

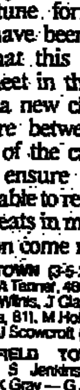
On this occasion, though, there was no desire to gloat, for Norwich had been brushed aside by Bradford City — one of three clubs that stand a realistic chance of preventing Ipswich from being automatically promoted from the Nationwide League first division as bridesmaids to Sunderland, the champions in all but name, come May.

Not that the Suffolk side will have to look over their shoulders for much longer if they continue to play like they did against Huddersfield Town, themselves pursuing a place in the play-offs, on Saturday. After an indifferent spell of form they were back on song and, as a further statement of intent, the club will this week secure the services of Jim Magilton, who has been playing on loan from Sheffield Wednesday for the past two months, for an undisclosed fee. George Burley, the Ipswich manager, will discuss personal terms with the midfield player tomorrow.

Ipswich led from the thirteenth minute, when Johnson evaded Gray and hit a fierce left-foot shot that Vaesen, the Huddersfield goalkeeper, did well to block — only for Magilton to thump home the rebound. Stockwell and Scowcroft fluffed chances to extend the advantage before Johnson, the man of the match, did so moments before half-time with a low shot from just inside the penalty area.

After the interval Johnson hit the post from an acute angle and forced a superb one-handed save from Vaesen. In between, Scowcroft, playing his first full game for three months after injury, powered a header against the crossbar. Bobby Petta, a substitute, eventually made it 3-0 seven minutes from time when he chested down a free kick by Wilnis and finished with aplomb.

At the other end Richard Johnson, the surplus Ipswich goalkeeper, must have considered indulging in some belated Red Nose Day activities. Whistling the *Record Breakers* theme tune for 90 minutes would have been appropriate given that this was his 21st clean sheet in the league this season, a new club record. A few more between now and the end of the campaign will help to ensure that Ipswich fans are able to respond to Norwich defeats in more traditional fashion come next season.



Johnson: in fine form

IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — M Thetis (sub: A Tanner, 46min), T Mowbray, M Venus — F Wilnis, J Clapham, M Stockwell (sub: B Petta, 81), M Holland, J Magilton — D Johnson, J Scowcroft (sub: R Naylor, 83).
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): N Vaesen — S Jenkins, R Edwards, C Armstrong, K Gray — G Johnson, C Beech, D Philips, B Thornley (sub: D Facey, 45) — M Stewart, W Allison (sub: S Baldrey, 78).
Referee: F Stretton.

Fry feels the pressure of Peterborough's descent

Peterborough United 0
Swansea City 1

By Bill Edgar

IF Barry Fry emerged tardily for the post-match press conference, the real Barry Fry — exuberant and cheerful — did not turn up at all. Another poor showing by his Peterborough United side, and consequent calls by supporters for his sacking, had transformed his character. The man who normally exudes animation was looking drawn and off-colour.

Fry may be the victim of his own outgoing style. Perhaps fans who had been infected by his optimism are now thinking ill of him because their high expectations remain unfulfilled. Whatever the reason, they certainly feel he is unable to cure a downturn in form that has seen Peterborough manage only 13 points from the past 14 games, losing their way in the Nationwide League third division promotion race in the process.

"If we play like we've played in the last three games, we've got no chance of promotion," Fry said. "We've got a lot of youngsters, and while they are gaining experience the fans have got to get behind them."

The home side frequently created threatening wide positions but foundered largely on an inability to cross the ball.

While Peterborough's stride has been broken, Swansea City are getting into theirs after just three defeats in the past 19 league games. A surging run and 20-yard shot by Stuart Roberts in the second minute gave them victory that cemented their place in the play-off positions. With Cardiff City joint top on points and Wrexham consolidating in the division above — in a season when all three league sides in Wales reached the FA Cup fourth round — it may be that football in the Principality is thriving enough not to need large loans from rival football associations.

John Hollins, the Swansea manager, spared a thought afterwards for his counterpart. "They've got a good manager here and I think the supporters were being a little hard on him," he said. As Peterborough sank further behind the leading pack in the division, the banner and the chants demanded: "Fry out". Whether or not he survives, it seems increasingly unlikely that "Fry-up" will be on the headline writers' menu this May.

Fry: facing criticism

PETERBOROUGH UNITED (4-4-2): M Tyler — D Hooper, A Edwards, M Wicks, A Drury — S Davies, M Gill (sub: S Forbes, 76min), S Castle, D Farrell — D Broughton (sub: W Andrews, 60), F Green.
SWANSEA CITY (4-4-2): R Freestone — K O'Leary, J Smith, M Bound, M Howard — S Roberts, N Kulakov, J Coates, R Appleby — J Alsop, S Watkin.
Referee: G Frankland.

Howells returns to save Cheltenham

Stevenage Borough............2
Cheltenham Town...............2

By Walter Gammie

LEE HOWELLS, one of Cheltenham Town's long-term absentees, marked his return from injury by scoring the equaliser in an exciting contest between sides that have become all too familiar with each other at Broadhall Way on Saturday.

Howells met a pass from Bob Bloomer and cannoned a fierce shot off Taylor at his near post to secure Cheltenham's third draw in three matches. That might be viewed as points dropped for the Nationwide Conference title favourites but Steve Cotterill, the Cheltenham manager, was philosophical about the result.

After five meetings since December, including an FA Umbro Trophy replay abandoned at half-time, he clearly respects a Stevenage side to which Richard Hill is increasingly giving his own stamp. "We'd have settled for a draw at the start," Cotterill said. "What disappointed me was giving away two silly goals."

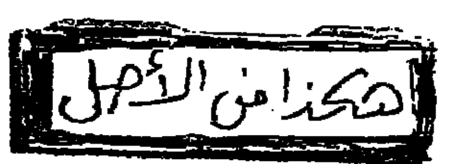
Cheltenham had taken an early lead when Brough followed up a shot by Yates, parried by Taylor, before Stevenage levelled with a near-post header from Alford.

They went ahead when Leadbeater, signed for an undisclosed record fee from Hereford United, marked his home debut with a spectacular goal, lofting a shot over Book.

With Dale Watkins injured, Cotterill says that if he moves before the transfer deadline it will be to sign a forward. Meanwhile, he must face up to losing Bloomer, who was sent off for a second yellow card five minutes from the finish.

"We've had some of our more creative players out through injury," Cotterill said. "It would be nice to wave a magic wand and have them back out on the pitch but you can't do that."

STEVENAGE BOROUGH (3-5-2): C Taylor — R Kirby, M Smith, L Howarth — L Harvey, J Strouts, S Berry, M Love, R Hanson (sub: C Pearson, 89min) — C Alford, R Leadbeater.
CHELTENHAM TOWN (4-4-2): S Book — M Duff, M Freeman, J Brough, R Walker — K Knight (sub: L Howells, 46), M Yates, B Bloomer, J Victory — N Grayson, J Eaton (sub: N Howarth, 61).
Referee: K Woolmer.



Oliver Holt sees United's opponents struggle before their big match

Ronaldo the dreamer facing rude awakening

At their training camp on the edge of the cornfields, they paraded Ronaldo in front of the Italian press yesterday and it felt like watching those television pictures that autocracies distribute sometimes to reassure the people that their ailing leader is still alive.

He looked content enough, this man who has become more than a man in Milan, who has become something they call The Phenomenon. He smiled as he walked slowly up the wide spiral staircase to the interview room and got a few laughs by saying a mannered "thank you" to the English media at the end of a press conference that he had conducted in fluent Italian.

He knows that Internazionale expect him to save their season against Manchester United on Wednesday night, that they are desperate for him to inspire their ailing side to overcome the 2-0 deficit they take into the second leg of their European Cup quarter-final.

So he spoke of his "duty" and others said that, with Ronaldo in the side, anything is possible. It does not seem to make any difference that he started his first game for two months only on Saturday night, that he managed only 45 half-hearted minutes in the 2-2 draw against AC Milan in the cauldron of the San Siro. He is, quite palpably, not fit.

If Inter were not in such a sorry state, marooned mid-table in Serie A and freshly knocked out of the Italian Cup, they would not contemplate rushing him back like this. On Saturday, as the red smoke bombs cascaded down on to the pitch, turning the vast arena into a scarlet hell, Ronaldo looked like half a player, nervous of tackles, marginalised by the excellence of Alessandro Costacurta.

Yet still Inter depend on him like a lame man leaning on a splintered crutch. "I have suffered to try to be ready for this match. I have worked and worked to get over my injury and last night, for the first time, I played without pain," Ronaldo said. "I am not 100 per cent fit but we all know that if Manchester United score, we must be prepared to score more and more."

He has felt this way before. He has felt the pressure squashing him like a crusher in a breaker's yard. It broke him in the World Cup final and now, eight months later, Ronaldo is having to confront it all over again.

> 'That he will be unable to turn the tide seems assured'

The spectre of United was everywhere he looked, every way he turned. It was in those smoke bombs at the San Siro on Saturday night and in the taunts of AC Milan's red brigades and the United flags that they unfurled high on the Curva Sud.

Yesterday, the spectre of United even bushwhacked him at the Inter retreat in Appiano Gentile. It came in the beguiling form of a smiling six-year-old Italian boy they called Paulino, who had been watching shyly from the back of the room as Ronaldo spoke.

Someone at the front called him forward. They told him to show Ronaldo what shirt he was wearing underneath his jumper but he squirmed away, giggling. Ronaldo smiled uncertainly and then someone told him why the boy was so embarrassed. He was wearing a United shirt, they said. His favourite player was David Beckham.

That Ronaldo will start the match against Roy Keane, Jaap Stam, Dwight Yorke and the rest now seems certain. That he will be unable to turn the tide of the tie, though, seems equally assured. His own lack of fitness and confidence aside, Inter looked every bit as vulnerable in defence as they had done at Old Trafford ten days ago, when they fell to two goals fashioned by Beckham and headed home by Yorke.

On that occasion it was Aron Winter, playing at left wing back, who was exposed by the brilliance of Beckham. On Saturday night, Inter switched to a 4-4-2 system but, once more, they were undone by their vulnerability on that same left flank.

Inter had replaced Winter with the full back, Mickael Silvestre, but he was overrun by the incursions of the Danish wing back, Thomas Helveg, and by the trickery of Leonardo, who scored both the goals for AC Milan, with only an own goal and Zanetti sparing Inter's blushes.

The longer the game continued, the more Alex Ferguson's assured prediction that United will score on Wednesday, so forcing Inter to score at least four times in reply if they are to progress, assumed credence.

That is why Inter need Ronaldo so badly now, that is why they are falling into the same trap that Brazil plunged into in the hours before the World Cup final, when they saw the illusion of their supremacy disappearing with Ronaldo's convulsions.

Once more he will be at centre stage on Wednesday, when he has not had time to learn his lines. His only refuge is in dreams. "I dream every night about scoring goals," he said yesterday. "The night before the game against Manchester United will not be any different."

INTERNAZIONALE (4-4-2): G Pagliuca — F Colonnese, D Simic, T West, M Silvestre — J Zanetti, P Sousa (sub: B Cauet, 58min), D Simeone, Y Djorkaeff (sub: R Baggio, 69) — Ronaldo (sub: N Ventola, 46), I Zamorano.
AC MILAN (3-4-3): C Abbiati — B N'Gotty, A Costacurta, P Maldini — T Helveg, M Ambrosini, Z Boban (sub: R Donadoni, 61), A Guglielminpietro — Leonardo (sub: F Ayala, 80), O Bierhoff, G Weah
Referee: P Collina


The returning Ronaldo, left, is off the pace as he goes in for a challenge with N'Gotty, of AC Milan

Viduka begins to repay Celtic's faith

Aberdeen 1
Celtic 5

BY PHIL GORDON

THE DELAY over Jorge Cadete's arrival turned out to be as costly for Jim Farry as it was for Celtic three years ago, yet putting a price on Mark Viduka's tardiness may be too painful to bear for the Scottish champions.

The Australia forward underlined the potent partnership that he has formed with Henrik Larsson and both scored twice in an impressive display at Pittodrie that reduced the gap on Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premier League to ten points.

Craig Burley's hooked shot in the last minute sealed the biggest win in Aberdeen in 36 years, but the real prize of a title might be within closer sight had they not been forced to endure Viduka's soap-opera transfer from Croatia Zagreb.

It was impossible to detect any shred of doubt in the home team during the early stages as they worked ceaselessly to close Celtic down and control the midfield.

However, menace remained Celtic's monopoly, with Larsson, not surprisingly, the chief goal threat. Derek Whyte, the Aberdeen central defender, halted Larsson's progress with a scything tackle, but the Sweden forward's free kick curled just over the bar.

The physical element, though, was underlined in the 19th minute when Mike Newell, the Aberdeen forward, clashed in the air with his marker, Johan Mjallby. It was accidental, but that was of little comfort to the Celtic player, who had to leave the field for three minutes to stem the flow of blood from his head wound.

Hardly had Celtic been restored to full strength than Viduka used his head to better effect, by putting them ahead in the 26th minute.

Regi Blinker, fortuitously, was given a second chance to take his corner, because he placed the ball outside the arc. Whereas the first effort was appalling, the reprise was flighted perfectly for Viduka, at the near post, to thump a downward header between the legs of defender Andy Dow, who was guarding the post, to squeeze over the line.

Aberdeen's move was not improved when they appeared to be denied a penalty four minutes later when the ball struck the hand of Riseth, the Celtic defender.

Celtic crushed any optimism Aberdeen may have nursed for a comeback when Viduka doubled the advantage three minutes into the second half.

The Australian was involved at the onset, flicking a long ball into the path of Larsson, who transferred it to Blinker. The winger's pace created the space for a raking shot across the face of goal, eluding goalkeeper Derek Stillie, but striking a post. Viduka, however, followed up to tap in the rebound.

Celtic killed the game in the 69th minute. Stillie performed admirably to turn Larsson's free kick round a post, but from Blinker's short corner, McKinlay's cross sought out the unmarked Larsson whose header gave the goalkeeper little chance.

Aberdeen's frustration spilled over, though surprisingly in the case of Nigel Pepper. The substitute had been on the pitch for only six minutes when he was sent off in the 72nd minute for a dreadful tackle on Blinker.

Larsson though, had not finished inflicting pain. A minute later, the Swede's dreadlocked head guided in Burley's excellent cross for his 35th goal of the season.

Robbie Winters gained some consolation for Aberdeen in the 79th minute, robbing Lambert and holding off two challenges before steering his shot past Gould but Burley restored Celtic's four-goal advantage a minute from time.

ABERDEEN (4-4-2): D Stillie — M Perry, D Whyte, G Smith, A Dow — M Hart, J Buchan (sub: N Pepper, 66min), E Jess, D Winters — M Newell (sub: A Notman, 66), R Winters.
CELTIC (4-4-2): J Gould — T Boyd, J Mjallby, V Riseth, T McKinlay — J McNamara, C Burley, P Lambert, R Blinker — H Larsson, M Viduka (sub: M Burchill, 87).
Referee: W Young

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

CHELSEA (0) 0 **WEST HAM** (0) 1
34,765 — Kitson 75

Chelsea: E De Goey, A Ferrer, M Desailly (sub: M Duberry 60min), A Myers (sub: M Forssell 83), G Le Saux (sub: D Petrescu 60), B Goldbaek, D Wise, R Di Matteo, C Babayaro, T A Flo, G Zola.
Booked: Duberry, Petrescu.
West Ham: S Hislop, M Keller (sub: S Potts 86), I Pearce, R Ferdinand, N Ruddock, S Minto, F Lampard, M Foe, S Lomas, P Kitson, T Sinclair.
Booked: Foe, Keller. **Referee:** S Lodge

COVENTRY (1) 1 **BLACKBURN** (0) 1
Aloisi 22 — Wilcox 67 — 19,701

Coventry City: M Hedman, R Nilsson, R Shaw, M Konjic (sub: P Clement 62min), D Burrows, G Boateng, P Telfer, G McAllister (sub: D Huckerby 70), S Froggatt, N Whelan, J Aloisi.
Booked: Burrows.
Blackburn Rovers: J Filan, C Davidson, J McAteer, S Henchoz, M Taylor, J Wilcox, D Marcolin, D Dunn (sub: D Johnson 60), M Jansen (sub: D Duff 52), C Sutton, A Ward.
Booked: Henchoz, Sutton, McAteer, Marcolin.
Referee: S Dunn.

DERBY (2) 3 **LIVERPOOL** (1) 2
Burton 12, Wanchope 44, 49 — Fowler 36 (pen), 57 — 32,913

Derby County: R Hoult, S Schnoor (sub: H Carbonari 67min), J Laursen, I Stimac, S Prior, D Powell, F Baiano (sub: V Borbokis 67), L Bohinen, S Elliott (sub: K Harper 82), P Wanchope, D Burton.
Booked: Stimac, Powell.
Liverpool: D James, V Heggem, S Staunton (sub: S I Bjornebye 24), R Song, D Matteo, P Babb, J Redknapp, P Berger, S Gerrard, M Owen (sub: K Riedle 46), R Fowler.
Booked: Fowler. **Referee:** G Barber.

EVERTON (0) 0 **ARSENAL** (1) 2
32,049 — Parlour 16, Bergkamp 69 (pen)
Sent off: D Hutchison (Everton) 18, E Petit (Arsenal) 61

Everton: T Myhre, R Dunne (sub: A Grant 25min), D Watson, M Materazzi, M Ball, D Weir, O Dacourt, D Unsworth, N Barmby (sub: F Jeffers 74), D Hutchison, I Bakayoko (sub: D Cadamarteri 74).
Booked: Dacourt, Unsworth.
Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, T Adams, M Keown, N Winterburn, R Parlour, E Petit, P Vieira, M Overmars (sub: M Upson 86), D Bergkamp, N Anelka (sub: N Vivas 63).
Booked: Petit, Adams. **Referee:** U Rennie.

LEICESTER (0) 1 **CHARLTON** (0) 1
Lennon 60 — Mendonca 90 — 20,220
Sent off: K Jones (Charlton Athletic) 76

Leicester City: K Keller, R Savage, R Ullathorne, S Guppy, M Elliott, S Walsh, G Taggart, M Izzet, N Lennon, I Marshall, E Heskey (sub: A Gunnlaugsson 77min).
Charlton Athletic: S Ilic, D Mills, C Powell, N Redfearn (sub: J Barnes 74), R Rufus, M Kinsella, A Hunt (sub: S Jones 74), S Brown, K Jones, C Tiler, M Pringle (sub: C Mendonca 74).
Booked: Brown, Mills. **Referee:** A Wilkie.

NEWCASTLE (1) 1 **MAN UTD** (1) 2
Solano 16 — Cole 25, 51 — 36,500

Newcastle United: S Given, W Barton (sub: S Maric 83min), L Charvet, N Dabizas, D Domi, D Hamann, N Solano, G Speed, G Georgiadis (sub: R Lee 45), T Ketsbaia (sub: L Saha 61), A Shearer.
Booked: Georgiadis.
Manchester Utd: P Schmeichel (sub: R Van Der Gouw 45), G Neville, H Berg, J Stam, D Irwin, R Keane, D Beckham, P Scholes (sub: P Neville 86), R Giggs (sub: R Johnsen 73), A Cole, D Yorke.
Booked: Irwin. **Referee:** D Elleray

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 0 **LEEDS** (1) 2
28,142 — Hasselbaink 4, Hopkin 73

Sheffield Wednesday: P Srnicek, P Atherton, D Walker, E Thome, A Hinchcliffe, N Alexandersson, W Jonk, D Sonner (sub: L Briscoe 32min), P Rudi, A Booth, R Humphreys (sub: M Agogo 49).
Booked: Atherton, Thome, Booth, Agogo, Hinchcliffe.
Leeds: N Martyn, A I Haaland, J Woodgate, L Radebe (sub: D Wetherall 86), I Harte, H Kewell (sub: W Korsten 88), D Batty, D Hopkin, L Bowyer, A Smith, J F Hasselbaink.
Referee: G Poll.

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 **ASTON VILLA** (0) 0
Sherwood 88 — 35,963

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, S Carr, S Campbell, R Vega, M Taricco (sub: A Sinton 79min), D Anderton, T Sherwood, A Nielsen, D Ginola (sub: S Iversen 79), L Ferdinand, C Armstrong (sub: J Dominguez 79).
Booked: Ferdinand.
Aston Villa: M Bosnich, G Southgate, G Barry, R Scimeca, S Stone, M Draper, L Hendrie, A Thompson, A Wright, S Collymore, P Merson (sub: J Joachim 67).
Booked: Barry, Draper, Stone, Hendrie. **Referee:** P Jones.

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 **NOTTM FOREST** (1) 3
Gayle 79 — Rogers 21, Freedman 59, Shipperley 84 — 12,149

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, C Perry (sub: E Ekoku 59min), B Thatcher, R Earle, A Roberts (sub: J Euell 72), M Gayle, N Ardley, M Kennedy (sub: M Hughes 72), J Hartson.
Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, M Louis-Jean, A Rogers, S Chettle, N Shipperley, A Johnson (sub: C Bart-Williams 48), D Freedman, C Palmer, C Edwards, J Mattsson, P van Hooijdonk.
Referee: K Burge.

Yesterday

MIDDLESBROUGH (2) 3 **SOUTHAMPTON** (0) 0
Beck 44, Ricard 45, Vickers 62 — 33,387

Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, R Stockdale, G Festa, S Vickers, C Cooper, D Gordon, P Stamp (sub: G Deane 71min), R Mustoe, N Maddison, H Ricard (sub: A Campbell 83), M Beck.
Southampton: P Jones, J Dodd, C Lundekvam, K Monkou, P Colleter, M Oakley (sub: S Ripley 60), C Marsden, H Kachloul, M Le Tissier, M Hughes, J Beattie (sub: E Ostenstad 88).
Booked: Le Tissier, Monkou, Marsden, Kachloul.
Referee: M Reed.

OVERSEAS

GERMAN LEAGUE: TSV 1860 Munich 1 VfB Stuttgart 1; Borussia Dortmund 1 Bayer Leverkusen 0; Borussia Mönchengladbach 0 MSV Duisburg 2; Eintracht Frankfurt 1 Hertha Berlin 1; SV Hamburg 0 Bayern Munich 2; Kaiserslautern 2 Nuremburg 0; SC Freiburg 2 Hansa Rostock 0; Schalke 04 2 VfL Bochum 2; Werder Bremen 0 VfL Wolfsburg 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	22	18	2	2	54	13	56
Kaiserslautern	22	12	6	4	36	30	42
Bayer Leverkusen	22	11	8	3	43	20	41
Borussia Dortmund	22	11	5	6	33	21	38
TSV 1860 Munich	22	10	7	5	37	28	37
VfL Wolfsburg	22	9	8	5	40	30	35
Hertha Berlin	22	10	5	7	31	21	35
VfB Stuttgart	22	7	8	7	29	28	29
SC Freiburg	22	6	9	7	24	28	27
MSV Duisburg	22	6	8	8	26	35	26
Werder Bremen	22	6	7	9	29	30	25
SV Hamburg	21	6	7	8	24	29	25
Schalke 04	22	5	8	9	23	36	23
VfL Bochum	21	5	6	10	25	37	21
Eintracht Frankfurt	22	4	7	11	23	36	19
Nuremburg	22	3	10	9	24	39	19
Hansa Rostock	22	3	8	11	28	45	17
Mönchengladbach	22	3	5	14	22	48	14

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Empoli 0 Lazio 0; Internazionale 2 AC Milan 2; Juventus 2 Udinese 1; Parma 2 Bari 1; Piacenza 1 Cagliari 0; AS Roma 3 Bologna 1; Salernitana 2 Sampdoria 0; Venezia 4 Fiorentina 1; Vicenza 3 Perugia 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	25	15	7	3	52	23	52
Parma	25	13	8	4	46	25	47
Fiorentina	25	14	5	6	41	25	47
AC Milan	25	13	8	4	37	27	47
Juventus	25	11	7	7	30	25	40
Udinese	25	11	6	8	34	32	39
AS Roma	25	10	8	7	47	34	38
Internazionale	25	10	6	9	45	33	36
Bologna	25	9	8	8	31	29	35
Venezia	25	8	7	10	27	33	31
Bari	25	6	12	7	28	33	30
Cagliari	25	8	5	12	32	36	29
Perugia	25	8	4	13	33	46	28
Piacenza	25	6	7	12	33	38	25
Vicenza	25	5	8	12	15	30	23
Salernitana	25	6	5	14	28	45	23
Sampdoria	25	5	8	12	23	44	23
*Empoli	25	3	9	13	20	42	16

*Empoli deducted 2 points.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Athletic Bilbao 1 Salamanca 0; Atlético Madrid 1 Real Mallorca 2; Deportivo La Coruña 2 Tenerife 0; Extremadura 1 Alavés 0; Racing Santander 1 Real Madrid 3; Real Betis 0 Valencia 1; Real Zaragoza 0 Celta Vigo 1; Real Valladolid 0 Real Sociedad 0; Villarreal 0 Real Oviedo 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Barcelona	25	14	5	6	54	30	47
Valencia	26	14	4	8	41	26	46
Celta Vigo	26	12	9	5	49	27	45
Real Mallorca	26	13	6	7	28	19	45
Deportivo La Coruña	26	12	8	6	37	27	44
Real Madrid	26	13	4	9	52	42	43
Athletic Bilbao	26	12	5	9	32	33	41
Real Sociedad	26	10	8	8	34	30	38
Real Zaragoza	26	10	6	10	37	38	36
Real Oviedo	26	9	9	8	32	35	36
Real Betis	26	9	7	10	25	33	34
Atlético Madrid	26	9	6	11	40	33	33
Racing Santander	26	8	8	10	34	35	32
*Español	25	7	11	7	27	28	32
•Real Valladolid	25	9	6	10	27	30	30
Villarreal	26	7	9	10	31	37	30
Alavés	26	6	6	14	22	38	24
Extremadura	26	6	6	14	17	41	24
Tenerife	26	4	11	11	23	38	23
Salamanca	26	6	4	16	21	45	22

•Real Valladolid deducted 3 points.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Twente Enschede 0 Roda JC Kerkrade 0; Utrecht 2 AZ Alkmaar 2; Heerenveen 2 RKC Waalwijk 0; PSV Eindhoven 3 Cambuur Leeuwarden 0; Sparta Rotterdam 1 Vitesse Arnhem 3; Willem II Tilburg 2 Graafschap De Doetinchem 0.

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	22	17	4	1	52	20	55
Vitesse Arnhem	24	14	5	5	47	30	47
PSV Eindhoven	24	12	7	5	57	38	43

FRENCH LEAGUE: Sochaux 1 Monaco 1; Strasbourg 1 Auxerre 2.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Academica 1 CS Maritimo 3; Chaves 2 Guimarães 3; FC Porto 3 União Leiria 1; Sporting Lisbon 1 Farense 0.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Anderlecht 2 Aalst 1; Beveren 1 Racing Genk 0; ASC Charleroi 2 Kortrijk 1; FC Bruges 2 Ostend 0; Mouscron 7 Ghent 1; Germinal Ekeren 1 Lierse 1; Lommel 0 Harelbeke 1; St-Truiden 7 Lokeren 0; Westerlo 3 Standard Liege 1.

* Does not include last night's late match.

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	29	10	4	1	35	15	7	5	2	30	15	60	+35
2 Arsenal	29	9	5	0	24	4	6	6	3	16	9	56	+27
3 Chelsea	28	9	5	1	21	9	5	6	2	20	14	53	+18
4 Leeds	29	9	3	2	23	6	5	6	4	22	20	51	+19
5 Aston Villa	28	8	2	4	25	21	4	6	5	14	13	44	+5
6 Derby	29	7	5	3	18	15	4	6	4	13	13	44	+3
7 West Ham	29	8	3	3	20	19	4	4	7	12	20	43	-7
8 Wimbledon	29	7	5	3	19	15	3	5	6	14	26	40	-8
9 Liverpool	28	7	4	2	33	16	4	2	9	19	21	39	+15
10 Tottenham	29	7	6	2	24	17	2	6	6	10	17	39	0
11 Newcastle	29	7	3	5	22	19	3	5	6	16	20	38	-1
12 Middlesbro	28	5	8	1	19	10	3	4	7	18	29	36	-2
13 Sheff Wed	29	6	3	6	17	12	4	2	8	18	20	35	+3
14 Leicester	28	5	4	5	19	21	3	6	5	9	16	34	-9
15 Coventry	29	6	5	4	20	16	2	2	10	11	24	31	-9
16 Everton	29	3	6	4	9	9	4	2	8	13	23	31	-10
17 Charlton	29	4	5	5	18	13	2	5	8	15	27	28	-7
18 Blackburn	29	5	3	6	16	16	1	6	8	13	25	27	-12
19 Southamptn	29	6	2	6	21	22	1	3	11	6	34	26	-29
20 Nottm F	29	1	6	7	12	26	3	2	10	14	31	20	-31

Nationwide Football League

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Sunderland	37	15	2	1	40	8	9	8	2	31	14	82	(71)
2 Ipswich	37	13	1	5	28	11	8	6	4	25	14	70	(53)
3 Bradford	36	13	3	3	41	16	7	4	6	22	20	67	(63)
4 Birmingham	37	10	7	2	29	12	9	3	6	29	18	67	(58)
5 Bolton	36	11	5	3	39	22	6	8	3	28	25	64	(67)
6 Wolves	35	9	6	1	29	15	6	2	9	21	20	55	(50)
7 Watford	37	8	7	3	23	17	6	5	8	28	33	54	(51)
8 West Brom	37	11	2	5	38	24	4	6	9	23	34	53	(61)
9 Sheff Utd	36	9	5	4	32	25	5	6	7	25	29	53	(57)
10 Huddersfld	37	11	6	1	35	18	3	5	11	18	41	53	(53)
11 Grimsby	33	9	4	4	22	15	5	3	8	12	21	49	(34)
12 Norwich	36	6	8	3	28	22	6	4	9	22	29	48	(50)
13 C Palace	37	9	8	1	36	21	2	5	12	13	37	46	(49)
14 Tranmere	37	6	5	8	28	26	4	10	4	22	25	45	(50)
15 Stockport	37	6	6	6	21	18	4	8	7	22	29	44	(43)
16 Portsmouth	37	9	5	5	30	19	1	7	10	19	39	42	(49)
17 Barnsley	36	5	7	5	25	20	4	8	7	17	23	42	(42)
18 Swindon	37	6	8	5	37	34	4	2	12	14	29	40	(51)
19 QPR	36	6	6	6	20	17	3	4	11	17	30	37	(37)
20 Port Vale	35	7	2	8	16	24	3	3	12	22	40	35	(38)
21 Oxford Utd	37	6	7	6	24	25	2	4	12	12	34	35	(36)
22 Bury	36	7	8	5	19	19	0	7	11	10	32	34	(29)
23 Bristol City	35	4	8	6	25	30	1	6	10	18	35	29	(43)
24 Crewe	34	4	3	9	20	32	3	5	10	20	35	29	(40)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Fulham	35	14	2	1	33	10	10	4	4	25	16	78	(58)
2 Preston	35	10	4	3	39	18	10	5	3	26	16	69	(65)
3 Walsall	35	10	5	3	26	17	10	2	5	22	20	67	(48)
4 Bournemth	34	12	5	1	34	9	5	4	7	21	24	60	(55)
5 Gillingham	35	11	5	2	33	13	4	9	4	22	20	59	(55)
6 Man City	35	8	6	3	24	11	6	8	4	22	15	56	(46)
7 Stoke	33	8	3	5	22	18	9	0	8	19	20	54	(41)
8 Reading	35	6	6	4	24	20	6	5	6	20	24	53	(44)
9 Wigan	32	9	3	3	27	9	6	4	7	22	22	52	(49)
10 Chesterfld	34	12	2	3	28	12	2	7	8	9	19	51	(37)
11 Millwall	36	6	7	5	25	21	7	3	8	16	24	49	(41)
12 Wrexham	34	6	5	6	16	20	5	5	7	20	27	43	(36)
13 Blackpool	34	5	7	5	19	17	5	5	7	14	20	42	(33)
14 Luton	34	7	3	7	19	21	4	5	8	21	26	41	(40)
15 Bristol R	33	7	6	5	28	22	2	6	7	16	16	39	(44)
16 Colchester	35	5	7	5	18	24	3	8	7	21	28	39	(39)
17 Notts Co	33	6	3	7	23	22	4	4	9	15	26	37	(38)
18 Oldham	35	5	2	9	18	23	5	5	9	19	26	37	(37)
19 York	35	4	7	6	21	24	5	2	11	21	37	36	(42)
20 Lincoln City	34	8	3	6	23	20	2	3	12	10	33	36	(33)
21 Burnley	35	5	6	8	15	29	3	4	9	21	35	34	(36)
22 Northmptn	35	2	8	6	13	18	5	4	10	15	22	33	(28)
23 Macclesfld	34	5	4	8	13	17	2	5	10	11	24	30	(24)
24 Wycombe	34	6	4	9	24	21	0	6	9	8	25	28	(32)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Camb Utd	34	11	3	3	28	16	8	3	6	29	21	63	(57)
2 Cardiff	35	12	4	3	32	15	6	5	5	19	16	63	(51)
3 Brentford	34	13	3	2	34	15	5	0	11	22	34	57	(56)
4 L Orient	34	10	4	4	27	20	5	7	4	22	20	56	(49)
5 Scunthorpe	33	11	1	4	33	23	6	3	8	23	22	55	(56)
6 Mansfield	35	12	1	4	31	16	4	6	8	20	31	55	(51)
7 Swansea	34	8	7	1	23	12	6	4	8	17	23	53	(40)
8 Plymouth	34	9	5	4	22	12	5	4	7	16	17	51	(38)
9 Rotherham	33	7	5	4	31	21	7	3	7	32	26	50	(63)
10 Halifax	34	8	7	3	29	21	5	4	7	16	19	50	(45)
11 Peterboro	36	8	4	7	33	28	6	3	8	22	21	49	(55)
12 Exeter	34	10	3	4	24	13	3	6	8	12	20	48	(36)
13 Brighton	36	7	1	10	22	30	7	3	8	21	25	46	(43)
14 Darlington	33	8	3	4	30	14	5	3	10	21	31	45	(51)
15 Chester	36	4	10	4	18	22	6	5	7	25	27	45	(43)
16 Shrewsbury	35	9	4	4	29	23	2	7	9	11	24	44	(40)
17 Barnet	35	9	3	7	27	27	3	4	9	18	30	43	(45)
18 Southend	35	8	5	5	22	13	3	5	9	19	34	43	(41)
19 Rochdale	34	7	6	3	18	12	4	4	10	17	29	43	(35)
20 Torquay	36	7	7	3	23	15	2	8	9	16	30	42	(39)
21 Carlisle	35	6	5	6	16	15	3	6	9	15	23	38	(31)
22 Hull	36	5	4	9	18	23	5	3	10	17	31	37	(35)
23 Hartlepool	35	5	5	7	27	26	4	4	10	17	31	36	(44)
24 Scarboro	34	5	2	9	20	31	4	2	12	16	32	31	(36)

LEYTON ORIENT (0) 1 **HULL** (1) 2
5,421 — Brabin 3, D Brown 83

MANSFIELD (1) 3 **ROCHDALE** (0) 1
Lormor 2, Hyde 56, Clarke 68 — Lydiate 50 — 2,565

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0 **SWANSEA** (1) 1
4,185 — Roberts 2

PLYMOUTH (0) 0 **HARTLEPOOL** (0) 0
4,441
Sent off: M Barron (Hartlepool) 90

SCARBOROUGH (0) 0 **ROTHERHAM** (2) 4
3,328 — Whelan 17, Hurst 37, Warne 55, Fortune-West 72

SOUTHEND (0) 0 **EXETER** (0) 0
3,425
Sent off: M Beard (Southend) 79, P Newman (Southend) 65

SCOTLAND

TENNENT'S CUP

FIFTH ROUND

AYR (0) 0 **DUNDEE UTD** (0) 0
5,508

PREMIER LEAGUE

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Rangers	27	10	3	0	27	8	9	2	3	36	15	62	+40
2 Celtic	27	11	2	1	40	7	4	5	4	27	18	52	+42
3 Kilmarnock	27	7	5	2	19	11	5	4	4	13	9	45	+12
4 St Johnstn	27	5	5	3	19	17	6	4	4	13	17	42	-2
5 Motherwell	27	6	4	4	17	19	1	5	7	9	21	30	-14
6 Aberdeen	27	4	4	5	17	23	4	2	8	13	25	30	-18
7 Dundee	27	4	3	7	10	20	3	3	7	12	25	27	-23
8 Dundee Utd	26	2	7	3	11	11	4	1	9	16	20	26	-4
9 Hearts	26	6	1	7	17	19	0	5	7	5	19	24	-16
10 Dunfermline	27	3	6	4	13	17	0	9	5	8	21	24	-17

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Hibernian	29	12	1	1	36	10	9	4	2	30	19	68	+37
2 Falkirk	29	7	5	3	21	15	9	1	4	25	13	54	+18
3 Airdrie	29	5	2	8	15	25	10	3	1	22	8	50	+4
4 Ayr	27	7	2	5	34	19	7	1	5	17	16	45	+16
5 St Mirren	29	8	1	5	16	18	4	6	5	12	13	43	-3
6 Clydebank	27	4	4	4	13	12	5	5	5	16	19	36	-2
7 G Morton	28	4	5	6	16	16	5	2	6	14	13	34	+1
8 Raith	29	4	4	7	14	21	2	5	7	16	27	27	-18
9 Hamilton	28	2	5	6	11	18	3	4	8	16	29	24	-20
10 Stranraer	29	2	2	11	14	24	2	0	12	10	33	14	-33

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Livingston	29	10	4	1	25	9	8	4	2	30	20	62	+26
2 Inverness C	29	12	2	0	35	15	6	4	5	29	23	60	+26
3 Clyde	28	9	3	3	23	13	5	4	5	16	17	49	+9
4 Alloa	29	7	3	5	34	22	4	3	7	21	21	39	+12
5 Partick	29	6	2	7	14	18	5	2	7	13	16	37	-5
6 Stirling	29	5	1	8	20	25	5	4	6	20	28	35	-13
7 Queen of S	29	5	6	3	19	13	4	1	10	16	23	34	-1
8 Arbroath	29	6	3	5	16	21	3	3	8	12	22	33	-15
9 East Fife	28	4	3	7	16	27	5	2	8	17	26	32	-20
10 Forfar	29	4	3	7	25	27	2	3	10	14	31	24	-19

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Ross County	29	11	1	3	35	12	9	4	1	40	20	65	+43
2 Stenhsmuir	29	7	1	6	29	21	7	5	3	22	14	48	+16
3 Brechin	29	5	6	4	17	17	8	2	4	21	19	47	+2
4 Albion	28	5	3	5	21	27	6	4	5	18	22	40	-10
5 Dumbarton	28	3	5	6	15	18	7	4	3	21	16	39	+2
6 Berwick	29	5	3	7	20	22	4	8	2	17	17	38	-2
7 East Stirling	29	4	8	3	23	17	4	3	7	20	22	35	+4
8 Queen's Pk	29	4	6	3	16	14	3	4	9	16	24	31	-6
9 Cowdenbth	28	4	2	9	17	25	2	4	7	10	24	24	-22
10 Montrose	28	4	4	6	21	24	2	1	11	12	36	23	-27

Nationwide Football Conference

DONCASTER (0) 0 **HAYES** (0) 1
3,149 — Randall 72

FARNBOROUGH (2) 2 **BARROW** (1) 2
Bailey 34, N Baker 45 — Johnston 38, Hayward 57 — 758

Kurt Nogan, right, receives enthusiastic congratulations after scoring the winning goal for Preston against Burnley yesterday. Photograph: Alex Livesey/Allsport

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 0 Bishop Auckland 1; Blyth Spartans 0 Bamber Bridge 1; Chorley 1 Frickley 1; Gainsborough 1 Gateshead 1; Lancaster 0 [illegible]

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 1 Hendon 0; Billericay 1 Slough 2; Bromley 1 Walton and Hersham 1; Chesham 2 Hampton 2; Dag and Red 2 Basingstoke 0; Harrow 3 Dulwich [illegible]

FA VASE

SEMI-FINALS, FIRST LEG: Bedlington Ter 5 Thame 0; Taunton 0 Tiverton 3.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 1 [illegible]

GOALSCORERS

SECOND DIVISION: ... 23: G Horsfield (Fulham, 8 for Halifax). 20: K Nogan (Preston). 19: S Barlow (Wigan); R Cresswell (York). 18: A Rammell (Walsall); J Roberts (Bristol Rovers); C Asaba (Gillingham, 1 for Reading). 17: J Cureton (Bristol Rovers); A Payton (Burnley). 16: B Hayles (Fulham, 10 for Bristol Rovers); R Taylor (Gillingham); S Goater (Man City). 15: K Connolly (Wrexham); N Harris (Millwall).

THIRD DIVISION: 19: L Owusu (Brentford); J Forrester (Scunthorpe). 17: M Butler (Cambridge Utd); M Gabbiadini (Darlington). 16: S Partridge (Brentford, 15 for Torquay); L Peacock (Mansfield). 15: J Taylor (Cambridge Utd); S Flack (Exeter). 14: T Benjamin (Cambridge Utd); J Eyre (Scunthorpe); K Charlery (Barnet); J Williams (Cardiff); K Nugent (Cardiff).

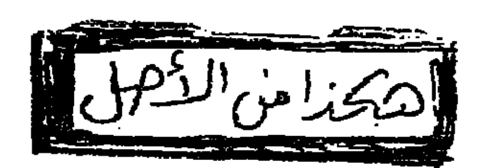
BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE: 35: H Larsson (Celtic). 24: R Wallace (Rangers). 18: J Albertz (Rangers). 16: J Johansson (Rangers). 14: B Dodds (Dundee Utd, 3 for Aberdeen). 13: E Jess (Aberdeen). 11: D Adams (Motherwell, 6 for Ross County). 10: J Hamilton (Hearts).

Includes all competitions

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were seven score draws: Coventry v Blackburn, Leicester v Charlton, Port Vale v Stockport, Portsmouth v Crystal Palace, Blackpool v Wrexham, Cardiff v Torquay, Greenock Morton v Raith. Payouts on seven, six and five score draws. This weeks confirmed pay out for: Seven score draws: 2 winners each £39,305.50. Six score draws: 56 winners each £531.50. Five score draws: 1,192 winners each £5.

POOLS CHECK



CRICKET

Lara celebrates day of destiny

FROM PAT GIBSON IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

IT WAS Courtney Walsh Day at Sabina Park here, by decree of the West Indies Cricket Board, in recognition of the achievements of the great Jamaican fast bowler, but, in keeping with so many pronouncements that have embarrassed Caribbean cricket in recent times, they got the date wrong.

Saturday was Walsh's day. Yesterday undoubtedly belonged to Brian Lara, who could not have done more to convince them that there is no one else of his stature to lead them out of their present crisis with a wonderful exhibition of batsmanship that brought him his first century in 15 Tests and 18 months.

Whatever they think of his qualities of leadership — and they thought so little of them on the shambolic tour of South Africa that they virtually put him on probation for the first two Tests against Australia — they could only admire the character and skill with which he responded to the greatest challenge of his career.

Lara could not have been under greater pressure in this second Test, which will decide his future as captain. He seemed to be doing his best to meet the selectors' criteria, reacting positively to most situations and encouraging his bowlers at every opportunity on the first day, when Australia needed a resolute century from their captain, Steve Waugh, and an equally idiosyncratic 67 from his twin, Mark, to recover from Walsh's opening salvo.

However, Lara was booed to the crease when he went out to bat with his side in desperate straights at five for two in response to Australia's 256. A sceptical public was even scoffing that, if he was out early when they resumed on 37 for four, West Indies might struggle to avoid the follow-on.

Lara gave them the perfect answer. He saw off first the spin of Shane Warne and then the pace of Glenn McGrath with the most watchful, studious demonstration of defensive batting. It was almost faultless, especially against McGrath, whose dominance over him in the past two series had done as much as anything to end 20 years of West Indies supremacy over Australia.

As if in celebration, Lara swivelled to pull McGrath gloriously and then greeted the appearance of Stuart MacGill by smashing his first ball, a full toss, to the boundary and driving him contemptuously through the covers.

Lara had been given gallant support by Pedro Collins, the bowler who had gone in as nightwatchman 20 minutes before the close on Saturday and stayed for another 40 minutes yesterday, helping Lara to add 22 before he was felled by a ball from Jason Gillespie that forced him to retire hurt.

This brought in Jimmy Adams, but well as he played in support of Lara, there was no comparison between the two. At lunch, when he had made 42, Lara went off to a standing ovation from the George Headley Stand and though he went through his stickiest patch against McGrath immediately afterwards, edging high to the left of second slip, where even Mark Waugh could not cling to the catch, he moved up a gear in the afternoon.

His fifty took him 198 minutes. 140 deliveries and contained only six fours, but soon he was dancing down the pitch to drive Warne for six, clipping him through midwicket and sweeping him for four like a man released.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater c Jacobs b Walsh 22
M T G Elliott c Lara b Walsh 0
J L Langer c Jacobs b Walsh 8
M E Waugh b Perry 67
*S R Waugh c Joseph b Collins 100
G S Blewett lbw b Walsh 5
†I A Healy run out 6
S K Warne c Joseph b Collins 24
J N Gillespie b Ambrose 1
S C G MacGill c Joseph b Collins 0
G D McGrath not out 2
Extras (b 1, lb 3, nb 17) 21
Total 256

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-28, 3-46, 4-158, 5-171, 6-179, 7-227, 8-242, 9-248.

BOWLING: Ambrose 17-9-33-1; Walsh 20-6-55-4; Collins 18.3-2-79-3; Perry 17-1-79-1, Adams 1-0-6-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell b McGrath 12
S Ragoonath lbw b Gillespie 0
L A Roberts c Warne b McGrath 0
*B C Lara not out 113
D R E Joseph c Blewett b McGrath 14
P T Collins retired hurt 10
J C Adams not out 46
Extras (b 8, lb 8, nb 16) 32
Total (4 wkts) 227

†R D Jacobs, N O Perry, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-5, 3-17, 4-34

BOWLING: McGrath 19-8-46-3; Gillespie 20-4-50-1; Warne 13-4-43-0; MacGill 11-2-44-0; Blewett 4-0-15-0; M E Waugh 2-0-13-0.

Umpires: P Willey (England) and S A Bucknor

Wasim inaugurates a new hall of fame

WASIM AKRAM, the Pakistan captain, became the first bowler to claim a hat-trick in two consecutive Test matches yesterday as Pakistan took a firm grip on the Asian Test final on the third day in Dhaka.

Wasim's feat came after double centuries by Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul Haq had left Sri Lanka on the brink of a heavy defeat. Ijaz made 211 and Inzamam an unbeaten 200 as Pakistan ground down the Sri Lanka attack to pile up an imposing 594 shortly before the close.

Wasim then created a sensation as Sri Lanka, needing 364 to avoid an innings defeat, slipped to nine for three in 13 deliveries before stumps.

The former Lancashire captain, who achieved a similar feat in the Lahore Test last week, destroyed the tired top order with speed and movement. He had Avishka Gunawardena caught brilliantly in the slips by Shahid Afridi from his fifth ball and shattered the stumps of the nightwatchman, Chaminda Vaas, from the next. Wasim removed Mahela Jayawardena with his first ball of the next over, having him caught in the slips.

In Christchurch, Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis shared a record unbeaten second-wicket stand of 315 as South Africa established a lead of 274 to take into the final day of the second Test against New Zealand. Gibbs finished the fourth day on 211 with Kallis keeping him company on 148 as the touring side advanced to 442 for one.


Makeba Perry slam-dunks for Manchester Giants in their Uni-ball Trophy final victory over Derby Storm

BASKETBALL

Baker deliveries vital for Giants

Manchester Giants 90
Derby Storm 69

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

FOR those of us who went along to the National Exhibition Centre expecting a one-sided contest on Saturday, the Uni-Ball Trophy final had two saving graces.

The first was that Derby Storm made a gallant game of it before succumbing to Manchester Giants. The second, a blessing for most Englishmen, was that Ronnie Baker, the only current home-based England international, was voted most valuable player.

But for the presence of Baker in the Giants' back court, where he raised the tempo and shot five invaluable three pointers, Laszlo Nemeth, the England coach, could have been forgiven for believing he was wasting his time among the 6,500 crowd. "What else is there apart from Ronnie," Nemeth replied when asked why he had bothered to attend.

Nick Nurse, the Giants' coach, was full of debt to the darting, dextrous 5ft 4in Baker for bringing the first honour to Manchester's basketball in all its different guises for 13 years.

"If he hadn't banged in those threes, it could have been ugly," Nurse said, recalling his squad's early indifferent start that left them facing a potential upset.

Derby, without the banned pair of Yorick Williams and Rico Alderson, were further weakened by the recent knee ligament injury that kept Nick Donovan, the 6ft 11in England centre, on the bench. In the circumstances it was astonishing not only that Derby's depleted squad clutched more offensive rebounds than Manchester, but led for so long.

Martin Ford, Maurice Robinson and John Tresvant challenged for every loose ball to retain the advantage that Nate Reinking was primarily responsible for giving the Storm. He sank the first seven points to the huge delight of his coach Bob Donewald, ever the showman, who acted as unofficial cheerleader, pleading with the Derby supporters to raise the decibel level.

For the first three minutes those supporters were in heaven. It took the Giants that long to open their account through Baker whose third long-range shot reduced the Derby advantage to 18-17 at the end of their first quarter.

LEADING SCORERS: Manchester Giants: Dorsey 28, Baker 21, White 16, Perry 11. Derby Storm: Burns 20, Reinking 16, Robinson 14.

BADMINTON

Duo bring hope of future success

BY RICHARD EATON

SIMON ARCHER and Joanne Goode became the first home winners of an All-England title for five years when they beat South Koreans Ha Tae-Kwon and Chung Jae-Hee 15-2 15-13 in a mixed doubles final that offered hope of badminton in this country gaining fresh momentum in the new millennium.

For Goode, who feared that her career at the highest level was over when she became pregnant after the Atlanta Olympics, it was especially notable. She became the first mother for 14 years to win an All-England title, achieving it on Mother's Day with a performance that was timely for her, the tournament and the sport. Funding has been coming into badminton; only success had been missing.

Archer and Goode achieved this in a tight finish after a runaway first game in which Ha had been troubled by a knee and spent so much time binding it up that Keith Hawthorne, the referee, was called on to monitor the delay.

The English trailed 5-8, led 12-8, then slipped to 12-13 at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena and put 4,000 hearts in their owners' mouths by missing four match points before Archer's low serve and quick kill finished it.

Earlier, Ye Zhaoying became the first player since Judy Hashman in 1964 to win the women's singles title three times in a row, though the final against Dai Yun, her compatriot, was little more than a training exercise. Ye's 9-11, 11-5, 11-1 win was played almost in silence, unlike the hypertension surrounding the men's final won by Peter Gade. The world No 1 from Denmark, who was embraced by his girlfriend, Camilla Martin, the other Danish world No 1, after she had disentangled herself from a tussle with two rather conscientious stewards.

Gade won the sport's oldest title 15-11, 7-15, 15-10 against its youngest finalist in the open era. Tawfik Hidayat, 17, of Indonesia, who remained the sensation of the tournament after earlier beating two of the leading seeds.

ATHLETICS: BIRCHFIELD HARRIER WITH ACTING ASPIRATIONS WINS NATIONAL MEN'S TITLE

Pugsley provides the theatrics

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

JUSTIN PUGSLEY is the new English National senior men's cross country champion but, had the actor in him been more talented, he would have been appearing at the National rather than running in it. The stage is Pugsley's first love.

The 27-year-old Birchfield Harrier won the title between rehearsals for his school production of *The Wizard of Oz*. The Yellow Brick Road on Friday and Sunday, the ploughed fields of Newark and Notts Showground on Saturday.

"Running is the bane of my life," Pugsley said, a somewhat surprising admission from a highly-trained athlete. "It is not what I want to be doing. I want to be singing in a musical at the West End." Extraordinary. Never in the 112-year history of this cherished old championship can there have been such a reluctant holder of the title.

Winning the National is every club runner's dream. Barry Royden, who was runner-up for the second time but who has never won it, has made it his life's goal. All but a handful of the 1,500 who followed Pugsley to the finish know that, for them, winning can only ever be fantasy, never an ambition.

Yet Pugsley does not live and breathe running, like those around him. "I have been given this ability but, if there was something I could do instead, I would do it.

"I went for an audition for a West End musical and saw how many talented people there were and I thought: 'I am not that good'." Nevertheless, away from the West End, he has appeared in *Chess*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Barnum*.

Fittingly, Pugsley brought a theatrical end to his victory at Newark. In the finish funnel he received a rose from Mary Gash, the English Cross Country Association president. "I don't know you, but I love you," he shouted.

Bursting into song, Pugsley gave a chorus of *Please Release Me*. Yet he cannot be released from the chains of athletics. "I crave to be recognised and it is the one thing I can do to achieve that," he said.

Pugsley is soon to become house master in charge of 18 choristers at Lichfield. "I look at these kids running and see their enthusiasm," Pugsley said. "It makes me think: 'Why have I not got it?'"

From Newark, Pugsley was off to see the wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz. The National field conquered, now Dorothy was in his sights. "Dorothy was dodgy on Friday," Pugsley said. As director of the production, there was work to do before opening night. "Judy Garland would not have had as hard a time as I give them," he suggested.

For race drama, the senior women's event topped the bill. Angela Newport came from third place, with 400 metres to go, to win. Most races were marked by runaway victories, none more so than Sam Haughian's by 1min 34sec in the under-20 event.

Robertson takes centre stage

Cathy Harris reports on the exciting closing rounds of the national schools netball championships



Whatever the outcome, Croydon High School had every reason to celebrate the 31st annual national schools championships at Roedean School on Saturday. With teams qualifying from all three age groups, the occasion marked a personal milestone for Croydon's head of netball, Liz Robertson, who has guided sides to the finals for 30 successive years.

Presented with an engraved pen and pencil set by the All England Netball Association in recognition of her achievement, it would have rounded off a remarkable day if one of Robertson's teams had triumphed. She had returned with the same under-19 side who lost last year's final but in the end she had to settle for two fifth places and a seventh.

Robertson said: "It's been jolly hard work and I'm very proud of the school's achievements. The expectations are immense but I honestly don't mind when they lose. I'm sure the girls at Croydon are no different to any others in that they're involved in so many other activities and some will probably never play again once they've left school. I firmly believe that enjoyment is the most important factor and you can't win all the time."

Starting at the end of last year with county and regional qualifying games, 54 teams from three age groups made the most of bright conditions in Sussex, playing 225 matches on 12 courts en route to the finals.

Last season's runners-up, Bacup and Rawtenstall, captured their first national title in the under-14 section, and Our Lady's Chetwynde, from Cumbria, crushed Oldham VI Form College's hopes of becoming the first to make it a hat-trick of wins when they lifted their third under-19 title in six years. Fairfax, from Sutton Coldfield, collected the under-16 championship when they edged out last year's beaten finalists, Broxbourne, by a solitary goal.

In a follow-up to a pilot scheme last year, England's coach, Mary Beardwood, and the chairman of the national selectors, Liz Broomhead, along with the management teams of the junior national squads attended the event to identify talent for the England under-17 and England 2000 squads. Players will be invited to training camps at one of eight area academies.

Hayley Costick, a goal attack from Barton Peveril sixth form college in Eastleigh, Hampshire, is a member of the England 2000 squad, and Jill Mulrooney, Natalie Connor and Melissa Storey from The English Martyrs School in Hartlepool that came close to clinching a place in the under-16 final, have represented England under-17.

Fairfax also boast under-17 internationals in defenders Amy Leach and Georgina Williams, with both playing key roles in their squad's success, while three other players from the school have been invited to attend the academy training. Winners of the under-14 group last year, their coach, Thea Hassall, must take much of the credit for steering her young side to successive titles.

Since 1970, Robertson has seen numerous changes, especially in the standard of play. "It has improved unbelievably," she said. "And it's amazing how much more netball is played at all levels. I think it's become very physically demanding for the players, but this event is unique in that it gives so many girls the opportunity to represent their school and take on the best."

UNDER-19: Semi-finals: Bablake 7 Our Lady's Chetwynde 13; Barton Peveril 10 New College 7. Final: Our Lady's Chetwynde 11 Barton Peveril 9. Under-16: Semi-finals: English Martyrs 8 Broxbourne 9, Fairfax 12 Oakmeads 8. Final: Broxbourne 7 Fairfax 8. Under-14: Semi-finals: Broxbourne 7 Gable Hall 11; Fairfax 9 Bacup and Rawtenstall 15. Final: Gable Hall 7 Bacup and Rawtenstall 11.

A goal attack has her sights set on scoring during the finals of the national schools netball championships

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Conditions Off-p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Obergurgl	65	300	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	5	8/3
St Anton	80	530	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	0	8/3
France								
Alpe d'Huez	160	340	Good	Open	Spring	Sun	2	8/3
Flaine	150	590	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	10	8/3
La Plagne	185	255	Good	Slushy	Varied	Fair	1	8/3
Les Arcs	160	330	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	10	8/3
Meribel	95	280	Good	[illegible]	Heavy	Fair	8	8/3
Tignes	157	270	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	2	8/3
Val Thorens	200	370	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	1	8/3
Val d'Isère	113	300	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	3	10/3
Valmorel	105	260	Fair	[illegible]	Slushy	Sun	9	8/3
Italy								
Cervinia	140	270	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	2	11/3
Livigno	88	205	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	3	8/3
Norway								
Geilo	120	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	[illegible]	14/3
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	100	280	Good	Open	[illegible]	Sun	5	8/3
Davos	155	300	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	9	7/3
Grindelwald	75	280	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	15	8/3
Saas Fee	90	220	[illegible]	Open	Varied	Sun	4	11/3
St Moritz	65	[illegible]	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	7	8/3
Wengen	80	[illegible]	Good	Open	Spring	Sun	8	8/3
United States								
Aspen	138	160	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	8	13/3
Deer Valley	232	232	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	1	10/3

L = lower slopes U = upper slopes



BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The datum (average result) on today's hand from the Macallan International Pairs was +600 to East-West as game is cold in spades or diamonds. It was therefore imperative for East-West to collect the full +800 from South's sacrifice in Five Clubs to gain on the board, rather than +500 and lose on it.

Dealer South **Game all** **IMPs**

North: ♠ 852 ♥ Q103 ♦ A5 ♣ J10754

West: ♠ K973 ♥ 72 ♦ K10932 ♣ K8

East: ♠ AQ106 ♥ KJ96 ♦ QJ874 ♣ –

South: ♠ J4 ♥ A854 ♦ 6 ♣ AQ9632

S	W	N	E
Zia	*Price*	*Robson*	*Townsend*
1 C	Pass	1 NT	Double
2 C	2 S	3 C	4 S
5 C	Double	All Pass	

Contract: Five Clubs Doubled, by South. Lead: three of spades.

East won the ace of spades and returned the six to West's king. If West lazily continues spades at this point, declarer ruffs, cashes the ace of diamonds, ruffs a diamond, and throws him back in with ace and another club. Now when he returns a heart declarer puts in the ten and ducks East's jack. East is endplayed and South escapes for two down, only 500.

But West, David Price, was wide awake and switched to the seven of hearts at trick three. Zia covered with the ten and cleverly let the jack hold. Again a spade back fails: declarer ruffs, eliminates diamonds, cashes the aces of clubs and hearts and throws West in with the king of clubs to concede a ruff-and-discard. Townsend carefully played back a diamond to remove this threat.

Now declarer is a dummy entry short to eliminate both spades and diamonds, and West has an exit card when he gets in with the king of clubs. The defenders get all five of their tricks for +800. Hard work for a mere 5 IMP swing.

□ The European Open and Seniors Pairs start in Warsaw today. Good luck to all British contestants, though they will do well to come home with any medal as France and Poland have both sent most of their top players.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Cambridge win

Cambridge University, the slight underdog in the annual Varsity match against Oxford, scored an overwhelming victory which belied the fact that the only grandmaster present was playing for the Dark Blues side.

The contest was held at the RAC in London and sponsored by Tony Buzan and the *Brain Trust* charity. Full results are as follows (Cambridge players precede Oxford players on the list): Brian Kelly (Trinity) v Dharshan Kumaran (Green), Draw; Harriet Hunt (St Johns) v Jonathan Rowson (Keble), Draw; Mark Ferguson (Queens) v Aleksander Trifunovich (St Annes), Draw; Karl Mah (Pembroke) v Oliver Rosten (Sommerville), Draw; James Vigus (St Dunstans) v Benjamin Savage (Lady Margaret), 1-0; David Moskovich (Queens) v Joel Ouaknine (St Cross), 1-0; Aron Cohen (Queens) v Kieran Smallbone (New), Draw: Nathan Alfred (Kings) v Emily Howard (Lincoln). 1-0; Total: 5.5-2.5

The following game won the brilliancy prize awarded by Rowe and Mawe, City solicitors.

White: David Moskovic

Black: Joel Ouaknine

Varsity March 1999

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nc6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Nxc6	bxc6
7	e5	Qc7
8	f4	f5
9	Bd3	Nh6
10	Qh5+	Nf7
11	Bd2	Rb8
12	b3	d6
13	exd6	Bxd6
14	0-0	0-0
15	Rae1	g6
16	Qe2	e5
17	g3	Re8
18	fxe5	Bxe5
19	Qf2	Bb7
20	Na4	Bd6
21	Nc5	Ne5
22	Bc3	Ng4
23	Bc4+	Kf8
24	Qxf5+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Times Book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99+p&p).

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VISHNUITE
a. A Hindu
b. A metal
c. Arctic twilight

ZERUMBET
a. A conical head-dress
b. An aromatic plant
c. A Carthaginian god

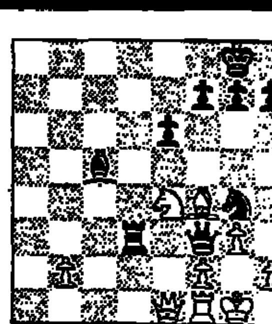
ZYGAENA
a. A gypsy
b. A grammatical hiatus
c. A fish

VALETAILLE
a. A lot of valets
b. A farewell speech
c. A Provençal cabbage

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to play. This position is from the game Garbarczyk - Krasenkov, Poland 1998.

Black has tremendous pressure against the f2-square. Can you calculate the fine tactical sequence which he found to exploit this?

Solution on page 46

MONDAY MATTERS

Keegan confronts some painful realities

Matt Dickinson says the new England manager's options are limited as he ponders his first squad selection

On the day that England's third coach of this year was appointed, one newspaper decided that there was no point in wasting time. "Keegan must go," declared the headline, although the tongue was firmly wedged in the cheek.

The depressing notion, as Keegan sits down to select his first international squad this week, is that it will not be a campaign by nasty football hacks that makes his job an impossible one. It is that it is the players, or rather the lack of truly outstanding ones, that has brought down successive managers.

Where, for example, does Keegan find a left-sided midfield player to face Poland the critical European championship qualifier a week on Saturday? We are not talking about a great player, not even a very good one, but any international footballer whose left leg is not merely the one he stands on when he is kicking the ball with his right. Answers by Thursday, please, to Lancaster Gate.

Darren Anderton was dispatched reluctantly to the left in the 2-0 defeat by France last month and looked as if he had been dropped on Mars. Instead of impressing Keegan at Pride Park on Saturday, Steve McManaman, who should have filled the role for the last two years, spent Saturday afternoon watching television.

"He was not injured, not ill," Gérard Houllier, his Liverpool manager, said, but he is moving to Real Madrid in the summer. So, through no fault of his own, one of the country's most talented footballers is spending his days twiddling his thumbs.

Given that it will be hard to select McManaman, does Keegan opt for Steve Guppy, Leicester City's hard-working winger? He thinks so highly of him that, while manager of Newcastle United, he let him go to Port Vale without playing a league game. Jason Wilcox? The right-footed Paul Merson? Or does he push Graeme Le Saux into midfield with *Phil Neville* or Andy Hinchcliffe at left back?

Nor is central midfield a treasure chest, although there are promising young players available to him. Paul Ince is suspended so Keegan is spared the task of telling Liverpool's slowing captain that his international career is edging towards its close.

So the informed guesswork is that there will be a recall for David Batty, whose last kick of a ball for England was that penalty miss against Argentina. To put Jamie Redknapp alongside him would make a one-paced midfield, even though the Liverpool player has become more dynamic, so Paul Scholes may be the best option.

That is assuming, of course, that David Beckham is kept wide on the right. What England would give for a player like Patrick Vieira, who cannot get into the France side.

It is no wonder that Glenn Hoddle had to go. There is no latitude for mismanaging what few brilliant players we do have, and Hoddle was *increasingly guilty of it.*

For Keegan, we can at least expect the players to perform with zest. Alan Shearer should be revitalised by the reunion with the man who signed him for Newcastle United. From Le Saux to Beckham, Cole to Sutton, there should be a lifting of the suspicion that had infected the Hoddle camp. But let nobody go into the next few months believing that England's problems can be turned around purely by Keegan's stirring patriotism.

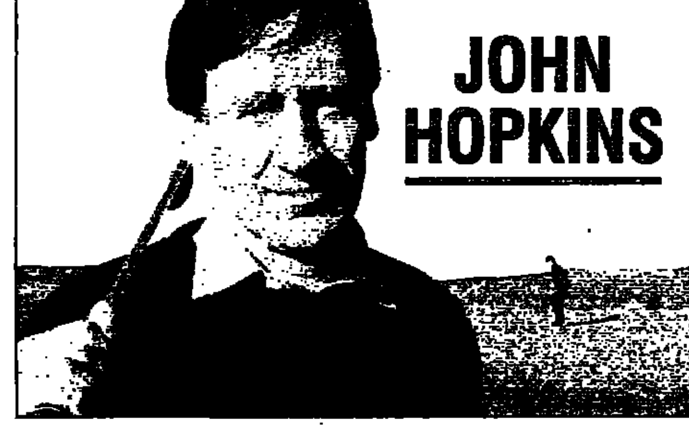
England are still trying to catch up. This remains one of the few leading football countries where ten-year-old kids still run about on big pitches with big goals instead of improving their technique. At *the professional* level, we remain the only country where international players are applauded for whacking the ball into the stands.

That is why Keegan is entitled to a sympathetic gallery, and why the FA also deserves some understanding as it deliberates on his successor. Alex Ferguson continues to be the name tossed around, but it is a vain hope. The word is that he believes he is working with a superior group of players already, and he is probably right.

Keegan must be treated gently, not least because of his notoriously brittle temperament. It came close to shattering this season when the day job — management of Fulham in the Nationwide League second division — took a turn for the worse. Beaten for the first time at Craven Cottage, by Luton Town, Keegan threatened to resign if his players did not listen to instructions. The England coach should have no cause to step down after the game with Poland. The Poles can, and should, be beaten. But he needs all the support he can get.

'There are no surprises left in golf, only disappointments' — sad sentiments from a bygone hero

Fallen Faldo still refuses to flirt with failure



In January this year, Nick Faldo uttered the most depressing words I have heard on a golf course for a long time. He had just completed a bad round at the Houghton course in Johannesburg, another bad round, and was heading towards the practice ground again. "There are no surprises left in golf, only disappointments," Faldo said. This from the man who was once ranked the best golfer in the world for 80 weeks, whose mental strength obliterated Greg Norman in the Masters three years ago, who has won more major championships — six in all — since 1980 than any other golfer.

When success is around, failure is never far behind because the greater the degree of success, the greater the risk of failure. Faldo has had plenty of success. By many yardsticks, though, he is, at present, a failure. His consistency, once a byword, has gone. Only two of his 12 strokeplay rounds this year have been under par, so it is not surprising that he has missed the halfway cut in four of the five events in which he has competed. He is struggling to remain not in the top 50 but in the top 100 players in the world. His putting, which he used to practice on the linoleum in the kitchen of his parents' home, comes and goes and his ball striking is erratic.

Yet Faldo refuses to countenance the word failure. At its mention, he frowns and grimaces, as a priest might at an obscenity. "There is no point in thinking about it," he said. "You set yourself a goal, in this case to be in the Ryder Cup team, and there is no point in interjecting failure into it, otherwise there is no point in having it as a goal. You might as well give up.

"Sure, I might not make it, but I'm not going to let everyone think it is going to happen. If you think your ball is going to go into the lake, where does it go? That's the whole beauty of having something as a goal. It keeps you going, keeps you positive, keeps you out there. You've got to keep pursuing your goals and, if you can't be bothered to set goals *or if a goal is failure*, then you've got no chance.

"It is frustrating because I know what I can do. I have done it in the past — stood up there with an iron in my hand and fired it, '*whoooooosh*', straight at the flag, but the bottom line is that there is something wrong. It is not something that is in the lap of the gods. It is there and you still have to find it. It is a process of elimination."

Does it ever occur to Faldo that work might not be the answer? His reply came quickly. "No. Work is always the answer.

"I don't believe the answer is sitting in an armchair saying 'well, I'll forget it for a week. It's all going to be all right'. I can't see that theory working at all.

"I come out every day really feeling good. I get up, go out to the golf course thinking 'yesterday we did some really good work. I've got some good things to work on. Let's go out and play and let it all happen. I am really looking forward to it'. Those sort of thoughts. And what happens? Usually, I get a walloping. I think today it is going to change and it doesn't. That's the hardest bit.

"I get angry out there. I get as mad as hell. That is either the wonderful thing or the hardest thing about golf. There are no guarantees in it. Put your clubs down for three months and you're rusty again. You've got to work your way back into it. Not many players don't work at it. All the greats have worked on it.

"I have had a lot of letters from people who have got the answer to my problem. I've had a few belters. I love the one that started off 'it's simple. I can solve your problems' and there were six pages of the tiniest writing you've ever seen in your life. It must have been well over 2,000 words. I didn't even read it. I thought if this is meant to be simple, I need it in two lines — do this, do that."

When you are down as low as Faldo, any recovery can only come in small stages. "You have to take it step by step. The next step is to start playing really solid, start getting some decent scores, get to the right end of the leaderboard. Then, we start looking at winning again. Win a regular event before we start thinking of winning majors, I guess."

And if, in the process, Faldo were not to make the Ryder Cup team? What would that mean? "I am planning to. I am not going to think negatively like that. A couple of months here [in the United States] to sort it out and then I will go back to Europe and start chipping away at the points.

"Nothing is easy at the moment. Yes, there are moments when you begin to wonder about it all. The game is giving you a beating all the time. You have to be very determined, that's the bottom line. You have got to keep chipping away all *the time. I'll get there in the end.* That's my attitude. I know I will. It ain't gonna beat me. I'm not going to roll over."



Times past: Faldo cheers his last major win at the 1996 Masters



Present dilemma: Faldo curses his wedge during the recent matchplay championships in California

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Lewis fight aftermath

From Mr Cyril Wigmore

Sir, It seems surprising that, despite all the millions of words written and spoken in pre-fight speculation about the likely result of the Holyfield-Lewis heavyweight championship, not one of the experts realised that the outcome had to be a draw."

A victory for either boxer would have reduced the income from the inevitable rematch by many millions of dollars.

Yours faithfully,
C.H.WIGMORE,
Uplands,
Syreford Road,
Shipton Oliffe,
Cheltenham GL54 4JG
cwigmore@globalnet.co.uk

From Mr Paul Vanchiere

Sir, On behalf of Americans who witnessed the Lewis-Holyfield fight this evening, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Lennox Lewis.

There is no doubt in my mind that he dominated the fight throughout the entire evening. He is truly the new undisputed heavyweight champion of the world.

Shamefully witnessed,
PAUL VANCHIERE,
3319 Swanson Lane,
Lake Charles,
Louisiana 70601,
USA.
paul.vanchiere@prodigy.net

Varsity boxing

From Mr Neil Allen

Sir, On the subject of the Varsity boxing match (report, March 11) of course there should never be an "unofficial" weigh-in for such a potentially dangerous sport as boxing as, reportedly, Oxford underwent at midday. It should have had official observers from the Amateur Boxing Association.

On the other hand, and far more important to me, early weigh-ins — hopefully even 24 hours before a match — can do so much to avoid the kind of drastic weight reduction, and consequent risk of dehydration, which such British world professional boxing champions as Duke McKenzie, Lloyd Honeyghan and Glenn McCrory have told me that they have sometimes undergone during their boxing careers.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL ALLEN,
Times Boxing Correspondent (1956-1976)
64 Ruskin Walk, SE24 9LZ.

From Mr Chris Haley

Sir, Boxing is not the Varsity sport with the longest series of victories, nor is the record held by Oxford. Rather, it is another of the oldest Blues sports: target rifle shooting. The Cambridge University Rifle Association has not lost its match against Oxford for 18 years.

A similar run was obtained by the Cambridge University Small-Bore Club before their defeat two years ago. However, their Varsity match held last month was once more won by the Light Blues.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HALEY,
Captain, Cambridge University Rifle Association,
St. John's College, CB2 1TP.

Lessons from the uplifting win by Wales in Paris

From Mr Christopher Downs

Sir, I watched the France-Wales rugby union match and, though not normally delirious about Wales recording a win, thought the match represented everything wonderful about this game.

Then came England. What a myopic, introspective, boring encounter that turned out to be. Woodward's comments that he didn't care about the 22 penalties and that winning was the only important result flies in the face of what the watching public want.

I remember Woodward, along with Cusworth, Hare and Dodge displaying their skills for Leicester, and what a joy they were to watch. Today the awful predictability of the England team, and total lack of innovative thought,belies talent that must be searching for a greater stage.

Woodward must empower talented players with the chance to expand on their skills. The continual turning inside to seek the support of the colossal pack is indicative of the attitude that says we must not lose. Let's remember the Wales win with joy and hope that lessons will be learnt by the English team management.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DOWNS,
Brook Lane, Billesdon, Leicester LE7 9AB.

From Mr Jim Andrews

Sir, After the match in France, Graham Henry's men must look ahead with the statistic of never having lost at the Stade de France rather than never having won in Paris for almost a quarter of a century.

Yours faithfully,
JIM ANDREWS,
19 Waldemar Avenue, Ealing W13 9PZ.

Cup squads

From Mr M. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, Although no more than 11 players can take the field at any one time in competitions such as World Cups for football and cricket, preliminary and final squads have to be announced by certain dates. England's cricket selectors had to obtain confirmation that if any of the members of the World Cup team broke down, they could be replaced, even though the tournament does not start until May 14.

Final squads have to be announced by the first week in April — why? I can understand that organisers of a tournament might limit the number of competitors and management for which expenses will be paid, but I cannot understand why a team should not be allowed to pick whatever players they want right up to the start of any game. What is the rationale for this absurd rule?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL VARCOE-COCKS,
5 Brackenbury Road,
W6 0BE.
varcoe@dircon.co.uk

White balls

From Dr Anthony Freeman

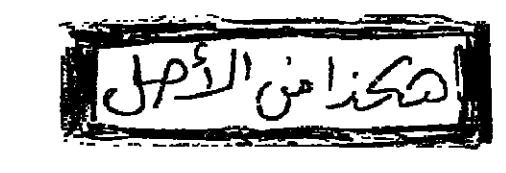
Sir, Richard Hobson (report, March 2) refers to the fact that the white cricket ball is notorious for swinging and seaming more than the red cricket ball.

It also has other advantages. It has been estimated that one in 12 men,though only one in 200 women, have an inherited failure to distinguish between red and green.

I recall one cricketer who could not understand as a batsman why so often he lost sight of the ball which kept low, but when playing on matting wickets in India had no such problems.

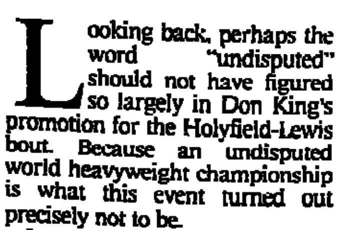
I would advocate the use of a white (or yellow) cricket ball in all county and Test matches which would, in my opinion, benefit batsmen, fielders, umpires and spectators alike.

Yours etc,
ANTHONY G. FREEMAN,
Meadow Rise, 3 Lakeside,
Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 1QE.



MONDAY MATTERS

LYNNE TRUSS



Looking back, perhaps the word "undisputed" should not have figured so largely in Don King's promotion for the Holyfield-Lewis bout. Because an undisputed world heavyweight championship is what this event turned out precisely not to be.

I personally dispute it, for a start. And I will personally knock down anyone who doesn't. "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness THRUST UPON THEM." King boomed at his deplorable post-fight press conference, after the unjust draw had been awarded. "Tonight," he added, "Lennox Lewis had greatness THRUST UPON HIM."

Which was again a pretty insensitive category mistake, since Lewis's greatness had been very much of the achieved sort, actually, but then stolen from him in such a blatant manner that regular fight-goers were grey-faced afterwards from the weary, cynical outrage of it.

Up to the moment of the judges' decision, it had been a quite beguiling evening. Grazing on excellent Madison Square Garden salt popcorn, we could engage in harmless star-spotting through our binoculars, point out Jack Nicholson and Vinnie Jones, and mourn the discovery that Liam Neeson looks, in weak-chinned profile, worryingly similar to Lord Gowrie.

The cauldron of the MSG boiled with more than 21,000 people; in a city full of static electricity, where every doorknob and lift button administers a shock, one doesn't use the expression "buzz" lightly, but buzz there certainly was.

A mobbish English crowd predictably jeered *The Star-Spangled Banner*. They even booed the American celebrities, and chanted that Don King was a "fat bastard", thus proving yet again that you can take the football fan out of England, but not Engerland out of the football fan.

But when the fighters finally snaked a path to the ring at 11.15pm, and the flashbulbs popped, it was magic. The roar, the colour, the occasion. Finally we would see what these guys really were made of. And, incidentally, what enormous shorts! I had no idea.

Lewis said in an interview recently that every time his face appeared on the cover of an American magazine, it had a question mark next to it. Well, his mystery turned out to be both his weakness and his strength in this bout on Saturday night.

The trouble is, he is not a killer-instinct kind of guy. He is a big, thoughtful man who expends minimum effort for optimum effect and apparently knows exactly what he's doing. From the moment the first-round bell sounded, Holyfield appeared to be back-pedalling on the spot, inviting Lewis to show what he could do. Perhaps he wanted to be tested to unbearable lengths again, so that he could win (as usual) by bloody warrior courage alone. But Lewis wasn't playing that game, because he knew it didn't work. And for that relief (as King's own tame Swan of Avonused to say), much thanks.

You see, some of us didn't relish the idea of watching Holyfield half-killed in the ring. However, we'd been led to believe that only by half-killing him could Lewis beat him. It was therefore a fantastic feeling to watch Lewis outbox Holyfield in round after round and prove that half-killing an inferior opponent is an option that a smart fighter can ignore.

That's how I saw it, anyway. I saw that while working Holyfield relentlessly with the famous left jab, and openly dominating him, Lewis was like an angler teasing a fish on his line. Just because he didn't bang the fish on the head with a mallet doesn't mean he didn't catch him. Put it this way: at very few moments did the fish take control.

So euphoria turned to acid outrage when the judges' decisions were announced. Especially when we heard that the first call was so tight (115-113). "How can it be so close?" was the initial puzzle, which was then swept aside by the announcement that this was the result in favour of Holyfield. The next judge announced in favour of Lewis and the third announced a draw. It still makes me feel sick to think about it.

It wasn't just unbelievable, it was the American variant that comes in two separate words: "Un" and "Believable." One minute the jubilant Lewis had slung away the question mark for ever, the next it came flying back like a boomerang and knocked him over. So the bout that was supposed to settle everything had settled nothing — except perhaps that you can fool all of the people all of the time. I felt that I had been tricked. I felt that all the punters had been tricked, and especially I felt that Lewis had been taken for an enormous sucker.

In short, I felt (briefly) like torching the joint. Not a soul I spoke to agreed with the judges. On the sports network, ESPN, the bearded pundit who all week had given Lewis no chance against Holyfield picked up the judgment and tore it up. All the ostensible good work of this unification contest, in proving that boxing was sorting itself out as a legitimate sport, now looked hollow. So I am not happy, the morning after the contest. I am wearing the souvenir T-shirt, but only because it's clean. The one consolation is that Lewis, thank goodness, was so pleased to have proved his mettle to the world that he stood proud and fresh as a daisy at the press conference while Holyfield evinced sweat and pain and distress.

Now that everyone knows Lewis won the bout, they can stop saying he's untested, which must be a huge relief. Even Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Steward, gave the impression of being unconvinced before, but not now. Now he's just furious. Lewis from now on will have sympathy as well as respect. But to the judges one can say only three words. Dolland and Aitchison. Meanwhile, King brazened it out, of course, because it takes more than a disgraceful outcome to deprive King of his almighty nerve. "What this is, is more excitement," he announced, wilfully ignoring the murderous mood of his listeners. "It ain't over yet, this is so great! What do you do when you got a dispute? You resolve it! So let's do it again! Let's do it again! Hey, judge not that ye be not judged!"

But it turns out that boxing stinks after all, Mr King, though not for the reasons that I had supposed. All week I feared the spectacle of violence — physical violence, one on one; each man battering the other's skull. But I hadn't figured the event for a mugging. Which it was, I'm afraid. Truly Un Believable (sic). And I regret to say it, but "Only in America!" sounds worse than ever on Don King's lips right now.



Iron glove: Lewis catches Holyfield with the kind of brutal punching power that ensures from now on he will have the sympathy as well as the respect of the boxing world. Photograph: Kathy Willens

After you. No, after you

Gussie Fink-Nottle looked at the nickname embroidered on his ancient silk shorts, and sighed. Professional boxing had been a good life and an interesting one.

Little had he expected, for example, that his splendid sporting bouts in the old days against Cuthbert "Mark of the Beast" Larrington-Pugh would bring him to the attention of the New York fighting scene. Gussie made a fist and observed it. Nineteen men had been floored by this hand of stone — men with epithets as diverse and terrifying as "Executioner", "Hitman", "Heat", "Surgeon" and "Alarming". Yes, Gussie "After You" Fink-Nottle had carpeted the lot of them. He was in the history books.

The nickname "After You" was the brainwave of his manager, Lindy "Cheesecake" LaGuardia. After much deliberation, it was conceded that menacing, boastful epithets simply wouldn't work for Fink-Nottle, and that was that. "It's tough, but there ain't no point fightin' it," Cheesecake said. Thus, Gussie "The Real Deal" Fink-Nottle was considered briefly, only to be discarded. "The Utter Fink" had a promising timbre but it upset the well-bred Gussie to be associated with a soubriquet so patently untrue.

Cheesecake then noticed something happening. "After You" was such a startlingly unfamiliar concept in the New York boxing world that Gussie was found to be fatally disarming his opponents by sheer good manners, and first-round knockouts were becoming the norm.

"Waddaya mean, after you?" queried the puzzled boxers, "Demolition" and "Cobra", as they paused to absorb the alien message embroidered on Gussie's waistband. And in the split second that confusion rendered them vulnerable, Fink-Nottle would slip in a sharp, explosive right upper-cut, and retire yet again undefeated to his corner for his trademark Earl Grey with lemon in a bone china cup.

It couldn't last, however. And being so well-bred, Gussie did not mind. In fact, he remembered with a pleasure the night the Fink-Nottle ascendancy looked set to cease. Cheesecake had bowed to pressure for a proper fight and matched Gussie against his potential nemesis. The world of boxing was aflame with speculation. Would "After You" meet his match at last?

For Gussie was to meet Tommy "The Zip" Mostel; but a Zip who had cunningly announced a name-change for the contest. Unsurprisingly, Gussie was disappointed — but only because he had spent many weeks looking forward to quipping, "I say, rotten luck, Zip. You seem to have been undone".

For, in fact, he was secretly pleased when he heard the fateful news from Cheesecake on the phone. "He's calling himself 'Allow Me'! Can you believe that? Tommy 'Allow Me' Mostel? And you know what he's sayin'? He's sayin' you're the real salami, and that modesty, not to mention excellent good manners forbids a prediction of the outcome of this contest. This is one clever Zip, Gussie! There ain't no flies on him!"

And so the world of boxing was turned on its head that night when "After You" and "Allow Me" squared up to each other. The cable networks called the contest "Men Behaving Decorously". On the plus side it irrevocably ended a lengthy era of rather silly pre-match bragging, though on the minus, it swung things rather too far in the opposite direction.

Gussie switched on the television, where the rehabilitated Mike "Who Me?" Tyson was preparing to challenge for the world heavyweight title, and declaring he probably wouldn't win it. "No, really! Who, me?" Tyson said, shyly. "Good heavens, have you never heard the expression that there's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip?"

No escape from the fans

I DON'T know what boxing fans are usually like, but the discovery that Lennox Lewis's barmy army was a tedious replica of the England Supporters' Club was seriously depressing on Saturday night.

I hadn't come 3,000 miles to hear the theme from *The Great Escape*; I had come 3,000 miles to get away from it. Here was dreary confirmation that travel fails to broaden the mind. The fans claimed to be walking in a Lewis wonderland, (oh God), and then they chanted, "Lewis, Lewis" as if he were Shearer, Shearer.

True, the fans settled down during the fight and gave Lewis invaluable support, but it was unsettling after just a week away from football to find the behaviour transplanted to a venue I assumed had exotic and different traditions. The flags of St George came out; men shouted while standing and pointing. A ten-second silence for Joe di Maggio was not observed by all. And when the various front-row celebrities were announced for our delight, most of them, astonishingly, were booed.

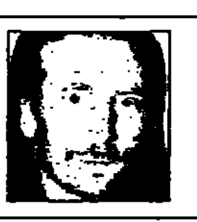
Now this was bizarre. What on earth did this crowd have against Jerry Seinfeld? Are they sore he has given up the show, and refuses to make a further series? Do they prefer Larry Sanders? Or what?

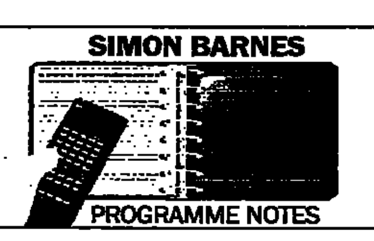
They booed Paul Simon with similar confidence, presumably on account of over-exposure to *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, but I'm only guessing. Nationality was probably a key thing in their animosity. Also ignorance. Clearly they had never heard of Spike Lee, but harboured unsuspected hatred in their hearts for Donald Trump, Michael J. Fox and John Cusack.

But having said all that, why the enormous cheer for Jack Nicholson? I am as big a fan as anybody of his performance in *Chinatown*, but I don't see it makes him an honorary Brit. All I can say with certainty is that the big cheer for Chris Eubank is not a reflection of his popularity at home. When he drives round Brighton in his silly American jeep, we are so embarrassed that we pretend we haven't noticed.

Boxing's vileness proves a great draw

SIMON BARNES





PROGRAMME NOTES

They were great marks for technical merit, but Lennox Lewis failed to score heavily enough for artistic impression. So Lewis joins the long line of the disappointed divas of sport, with Olga Korbut, Katarina Witt and the rest. But that's the way it is in subjectively judged events and like rhythmic gymnasts and dressage riders, Lewis must live with it.

Lewis was very clever and stylish and performed moves with a very high degree of difficulty. The result — a 0-0 draw, I think it was — was not fair. But anyone who is involved with professional boxing and expects fairness could take lessons in cynicism from Little Red Riding Hood. And that counts octuple when you have anything to do with Don King.

Boxing, how do you disgust me? Let me count the ways. No, let me not: it would take far too long. The interesting thing about the world heavyweight title bout between Holyfield and Lewis on Saturday was that it gave us an altogether unexpected and refreshing reason to be disgusted.

For once, the contestants were men of style and substance. Holyfield walks into the arena singing hymns and climbs into the ring with a beatific smile like a Christian about to meet a long-lost lion, a man who magnificently manages to give the impression he is content — eager — to take the adventure God sends him.

Lewis's serenity — how odd to speak of serenity as the attribute of a great fighter, though not so odd if you have read anything of eastern combat forms — seems almost to have something of death about it. Barry Hearn once said of Steve Davis, the snooker champion, that he always knew Davis was going to win "when his eyes went like a corpse".

The contest was conducted with good manners. There were no mouthing and show-boating and posturing characteristics of the lesser British boxing poser. The action, though constantly ferocious, was not over-troubling to the squeamish, even at the Gestapo hours of the morning.

Then the truly astonishing result, the match scored as a draw. Which reminds us of the fast bowler story, told of just about every rough-diamond fast bowler that every drew breath: the palpable leg-before turned down, the audible snick to the wicketkeeper rejected and, the third ball, all three stumps uprooted. "Bloody close that time, though, weren't it?"

The thing about such a dodgy, home-town, Don King-favouring decision is that it is simply part of boxing's stock in trade. Boxing showed in that decision that it is not a serious sport, just a spectacle operating for the benefit of King.

If this was a sport, we would all be seriously angry: call in Fifa, call in the IOC, send it all up to the highest court in sport. If sport cannot be fair, then what on earth is the point of it? This gut-feeling of the need for fairness was what prompted Arsenal to offer a replay after they won their FA Cup match against Sheffield United unfairly. It was also why the Football Association and Fifa accepted the offer.

But boxing has no higher court. That is because it is not about sorting out the best from the rest, it is a showbiz spectacle that makes money. In most sports, a result such as this would have been a day in the death of that sport. But not with boxing. Such decisions are part of the sport's mystique. The attraction of the irredeemably dodgy remains one of boxing's highest draw cards. People are shocked by corruption at the Olympic Games, but they revel in the corruption of boxing. Boxing without corruption would be like a Bloody Mary without the vodka.

Even the fighters agreed that it was all wrong. Amazingly, the MC leapt into the ring at the conclusion and at once told Holyfield that everybody thought it was a clear win for the other guy. That wouldn't happen in this country.

Holyfield managed to be neither defeatist nor defiant. He seemed to accept boxing's inevitable place in the mud at the bottom of the pond, and that he is a boxer and must live with it. The exchange was the most interesting part of a surreal evening of television.

What was most apparent during the bout were the strength of mind of both characters and Lewis's cleverness. Throughout, Lewis managed to do just enough, always playing the percentages. He drove the half-volleys for four, but was mostly content to milk the bowling and work the singles. He never tried to slog across the line for six.

If he had been a cricketer, it would have been a deserved century. If he had been Steve Davis, he would have won the championship, thanks to superior safety play and smarter shot-selection.

But this is boxing. So they didn't let him win. This is because boxing is not actually a sport at all, just highly remunerative televised combat got up as a sport. Boxing is legal, if expensive, and its vileness is an essential part of its appeal. As Miss Jean Brodie said, for those who like that sort of thing, that is the sort of thing they like. Just don't go around pretending it's sport.

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Can the International Olympic Committee be trusted to prevent drug abuse and corruption wrecking the Games? Tonight *Panorama* (BBC 1, 10pm) finds leading athletes and doctors training their fire on the beleaguered Olympic movement, including Donovan Bailey, the 100m champion, and his disgraced predecessor, Ben Johnson. Tomorrow, Alan Hansen kicks off a series on the new player power, interviewing such commercially attractive like David Beckham, in *Football Millionaires* (BBC 1, 10.30pm).

THIS SPORTING WEEK IN THE TIMES

TOMORROW: The Cheltenham Festival is the highlight of the National Hunt racing season. Alan Lee, racing correspondent, looks forward to three days of top-flight action at Prestbury Park and there is a colours guide to the the feature race of the day.

WEDNESDAY: Corruption and scandal has put the future of the Olympic Games in jeopardy. John Goodbody and Rob Hughes report from Lausanne on a meeting of the International Olympic Committee on which hangs the presidency of Juan Antonio Samaranch.

THURSDAY: Are Manchester United still on course to claim the European Cup after the second leg against Internazionale in Milan?

FRIDAY: Will there be English interest in the semi-final draws for the two European club football competitions?

SATURDAY: Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City prepare to decide the Worthington Cup — the first domestic trophy of the season — at Wembley while England continue their quest for the rugby five nations grand slam against France.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Brotherly love not offered to Wolves

Bradford Bulls	52
Warrington Wolves	16

By Christopher Irvine

NEVER mind that this cup-tie was over after a few minutes. Bradford Bulls turned on a rare performance of panache and striking power that blew away a not-inconsiderable Warrington Wolves side to book their fifth Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final place in eight years.

Bradford now meet Leeds Rhinos at Huddersfield in the second semi-final on Sunday week — the day after Castleford Tigers encounter London Broncos at Headingley — with history beckoning them on. They defeated the Rhinos en route to the 1996 and 1997 finals, when they were beaten both times at Wembley by St Helens. This year, for the first time since 1983, there are no Lancashire representatives in the last four. London could argue a case, as they were entered in the old Lancashire Cup at one time, but the extent of Yorkshire's domination was reflected by the manner of Bradford's demolition of a stunned Warrington. Henry and Robbie Paul led the Wolves a merry dance. One or both of the New Zealand brothers had a hand in seven of the ten tries, including a superlative effort by Robbie.

SEMI-FINALS

Castleford v London (at Headingley, March 27)

Bradford v Leeds (at McAlpine Stadium, March 28)

Four were scored by Tevita Vaikona, the Tonga wing, as Warrington's defence crumbled. The man-of-the-match award went to Henry over Robbie by five votes. In all honesty, it could have gone to anyone in the Bulls' side. Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, praised teamwork as the key element. "Warrington are not as bad as they might have seemed. We were that good today," he said.

Worse followed for Warrington, with an allegation of gouging against Lee Briers, their young scrum half, which will be reviewed on video today by the Rugby Football League executive, as well as a further incident involving Danny Farrar, the captain, who was placed on report by John Connolly, the referee.

In contrast, an admirably disciplined Bradford were 28-0 ahead before they were penalised for the first time after 33 minutes. Warrington attempted in vain to slow the play down, gave away a succession of early penalties and were swamped. A fourth-minute penalty goal by Henry Paul merely hinted at the dangers, which were unleashed as Boyle scooted in from dummy half for the first of four tries in ten devastating minutes.

When Mike Forshaw was not burrowing away at loose forward and putting colleagues into space, he was popping up in the centres, which he did for the next try. James Lowes, the hooker, laid on Vaikona's fourth score, while Danny Peacock, in the centre, and Paul Anderson, the heavyweight prop, who both missed last season through injury, announced their return with a vengeance. Darryl Van de Velde, the Warrington coach, described it as an "old-fashioned hiding."

The scant comfort to be drawn was that Bradford, in this mood, would probably have beaten anyone. While the rest of their colleagues had their hands on their knees, Toa Kohe-Love and Mark Forster scored at the end, but Vaikona's fourth try had already notched the Bulls' half-century.

After the ease of Boyle's opening try, Henry Paul brought Vaikona on to the ball at pace and he brushed aside Hunte and released Forshaw to score under the posts. The third was very much a Paul production — the brothers enjoy an almost telepathic understanding — and Naylor ignored colleagues either side of him to cross. The siblings again combined for Vaikona's first try as half-time was greeted with a standing ovation, and the same trio delivered in identical style on resumption.

Robbie Paul set up number seven as he careered forward from defence, Peacock took up the running and Withers applied another electrifying finish. Scott Wilson got Warrington off the mark to sympathetic applause after 52 minutes, but the concession of the try merely triggered another procession. Stuart Spruce poached a try from short range and Nick Zisti's long run set up Vaikona's third.

The Pauls have made a cover version of *Ain't No Stopping Us Now*. That awesome task now awaits Leeds.

SCORERS: Bradford Bulls: Tries: Vaikona 4, Boyle, Forshaw, Naylor, R Paul, Withers, Spruce. **Goals:** H Paul 6. **Warrington Wolves: Tries:** Wilson, Kohe-Love, Forster. **Goals:** Briers 2.

BRADFORD BULLS: S Spruce, T Vaikona, S Naylor, D Peacock, M Withers, H Paul, R Paul; B McDermott, J Lowes, S Fielden, B Dwyer, D Boyle, M Forshaw. **Substitutes:** J Donougher, N Zisti, P Anderson, N McAvoy.

WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny, J Roach, T Kohe-Love, A Hunte, M Forster, S Wilson, L Briers, M Hilton, D Farrar, D Nutley, S Gillies, S McCurrie, J Roper. **Substitutes:** D Hanger, G Chambers, D Busby, I Knott.

Referee: J Connolly (Wigan)



Forshaw, of Bradford Bulls, sneaks through to score under the posts as Warrington Wolves struggle to cope

Offiah piles on the agony for Whitehaven

London Broncos	54
Whitehaven Warriors	8

By David Lawrenson

MARTIN OFFIAH, who just a week ago became the leading English try-scorer in the game's history, added another five touchdowns yesterday as the Broncos reached the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-finals for the second successive year. Offiah, who missed most of last season with an ankle injury, is still not back to his best, according to the London coach, Dan Stains, but he was too hot for Whitehaven.

Remarkably, the Cumbrians actually took the lead two minutes into the game when David Fatialofa, the prop forward, exploited some weak defence to give Craig Chambers an unopposed run to the line.

After being punished for a sluggish start, Broncos eventually got into gear and John Timu got the better of his opposite number, Matt Lynch, to score under the posts. In the second quarter, the Broncos began to make their superior power and pace tell with three tries. Greg Fleming got the first when he leapt high to collect a kick from Karl Hammond while Offiah chipped in with two, the second of which came after good handling from Grant Young, Steele Retchless and Dominic Peters.

Whitehaven stuck to their task with their half backs, Wayne Kitchin and Leroy Joe, working hard to try and get them back into the game but with the London club 24-6 ahead at the interval the writing was on the wall.

Final proof that it was not going to be Whitehaven's day came six minutes after the interval when their loose forward, Gary Charlton, tried to chip over Robbie Simpson. The London second-row forward plucked the ball out of the air, raced up the touchline and, when eventually overhauled, passed to Timu who put Robbie Beazley over for the try. It then became one-way traffic with Offiah running in a further three tries and Young and Shaun Edwards claiming one apiece.

Stains admitted afterwards that his side still are not playing to their full potential but the semi-final draw against Castleford gives him a very real chance of taking them to Wembley in his first season in charge.

SCORERS: London Broncos: Tries: Offiah (5), Timu, Fleming, Beazley, Young, Edwards. **Conversions:** Warton (6). **Penalty goal:** Wharton. **Whitehaven: Try:** Chambers. **Conversion:** Hetherington.

LONDON BRONCOS: T Tollett; B Warton, G Fleming, J Timu, M Offiah; K Hammond, S Edwards; G Young, R Beazley, S Retchless, D Bradstreet, R Simpson, M Toshack. **Substitutes:** C Ryan, R Smyth, D Callaway, D Peters.

WHITEHAVEN: K Hetherington; G Lewthwaite, D Seeds, M Lynch, C Walsh; W Kitchin, L Joe; G Hetherington, A Lester, D Fatialofa, C Chambers, G Morton, G Charlton. **Substitutes:** N Frazer, A Bone, D Vaughan, T Dmytrowski.

Referee: R Smith (Castleford)

Leeds grateful for Sinfield's tries

Widnes Vikings	10
Leeds Rhinos	46

By Martin Richards

KEVIN SINFIELD demonstrated why he is the most accomplished young player in the British game by dragging Leeds Rhinos clear of potential danger at Widnes yesterday and through to a titanic Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final meeting with the Bradford Bulls.

Sinfield, still only 18, entered the fray as a 51st-minute replacement for Marc Glanville after the Vikings had drawn level at 10-10 with a try from their winger, Damian Monro.

With the Widnes fans sensing an upset in a passionately-fought quarter-final, Sinfield proceeded to deflate their spirits with two tries in five minutes. George Mann, the former Leeds prop, had the ball shaken from his grasp in a tackle by Martin Masella and Sinfield brushed past three defenders to touch down. His quick thinking brought a second try when he regathered his own kick to score under the posts and Leeds were safe.

They proceeded to cut loose in the final quarter with Andy Hay completing his first hat-trick of tries as a professional and further touchdowns for Barrie McDermott, Marvin Golden and Leroy Rivett.

Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, has predicted a golden future for Sinfield, who is a Great Britain Academy international, and shows composure beyond his years. Murray was certainly grateful for Sinfield's intervention yesterday.

The last time the sides met in the Challenge Cup was in the semi-final six years ago when a Jonathan Davies-inspired Widnes overwhelmed Leeds 39-4. Widnes are now rebuilding their fortunes in the Northern Ford Premiership but they disguised the gulf in class with a totally committed performance.

Mark Hewitt gave them the lead with a penalty after 13 minutes but Hay, one of the most improved players in the Rhinos line-up this season, scored from a pass by Iestyn Harris and had a key role in the second try when his barnstorming run took him close to the line. He was held up, but Brad Godden was on hand to score.

Another Hubert penalty brought Widnes closer and when Munro spun out of a tackle to score four minutes into the second half, the Widnes faithful were dreaming of a giantkilling. Sinfield, and the superior pace of the Leeds wingers, soon restored normality.

SCORERS: Widnes Vikings: Try: Munro. **Goals:** Hewitt (3). **Leeds Rhinos: Tries:** Hay (3), Sinfield (2), Godden, McDermott, Rivett, Golden. **Goals:** Harris (5).

WIDNES VIKINGS: J Salisbury; J Briers, D Cross, D Myler, D Munro; P Mansson, M Hewitt; L Hansen, P Cantillon, G Mann, P Harris, L Savelio, J Cassidy. **Substitutes:** F Devecchi, T Reid, J Hunter, S Argent.

LEEDS RHINOS: I Harris; L Rivett, M Golden, B Godden, F Cummins; D Powell, R Sheridan; D Fleary, L Jackson, B McDermott, A Hay, T Newton, M Glanville. **Substitutes:** J Mathiou, M Masella, P Sterling, K Sinfield.

Referee: S Presley (Castleford)

Rogers makes Salford pay for indiscipline

Castleford Tigers	30
Salford Reds	10

By Christopher Irvine

BEING dispatched to the sin-bin once is careless, twice in one match is unforgiveable. Andy Gregory, the beaten Salford Reds coach, was in no mood for apologies from David Hulme, his errant captain, or anyone else. "I've told them not to come up and say sorry," an incandescent Gregory said.

On both occasions, Hulme was dismissed temporarily for interference at the play-the-ball, an area which Greg McCallum, the referees' director, spoke about in a meeting last week with the JJB Super League coaches. Although not present, Gregory was aware of the crackdown and found no fault with either decision.

Castleford Tigers, who are in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-finals for the first time since 1994, amassed 18 of their first 20 points during the two ten-minute spells in which Hulme was removed from the action at Wheldon Road on Saturday, including a superb individual try by Maloney that put paid to the Salford challenge on the hour mark. That they were in the tie for so long amazed Gregory.

"I don't know how we were in the game at only 8-4 at half-time. I told them that they couldn't play as badly and that they couldn't get any worse, but we did," he said. Gregory offered no excuses, because there were none.



Orr, the Castleford half back, holds off a Salford challenge

Castleford, well-organised, were clearly the superior team, once the gremlins were removed in the opening period. Davis and Orr, the livewire half backs, the latter collecting his third man-of-the-match prize in three rounds, pulled Salford so badly out of shape that it was embarrassing. Davis created the opening try for Darren Rogers and Orr's clever hands supplied his second. They were the best answers to those visiting supporters who barracked the former Salford wing throughout. "I knew they were going to have a go at me, but I didn't think it was going to be that bad," Rogers admitted.

Until Broadbent grabbed a consolation score ten minutes from the end, Salford had never looked remotely like crossing the Castleford line.

Crompton and Blakeley, the Salford half backs, were at sixes-and-sevens throughout and only Faimalo showed the necessary penetration among the forwards as Castleford gradually fed off their errors.

When Fritz and Harland began to slow up in the second half, Tonks and Tallec provided the necessary impetus in the second row. The pair combined for the final try scored by Davis, which was preceded by another mazy run by Orr to put Aaron Raper beneath the posts.

Raper's brother, Stuart, the Castleford coach, caught the Wembley bug on the way to the last eight last year and "it turned into a disease," he said. The semi-final, in which they meet London Broncos, will test Tigers' immunity system.

SCORERS: Castleford Tigers: Tries: Rogers (2), Maloney, Raper, Davis. **Goals:** Orr (5). **Salford Reds: Try:** Broadbent. **Goals:** Blakeley (3).

CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J Flowers; R Gay, M Eager, F Maloney, D Rogers; D Orr, B Davis; D Sampson, A Raper, N Sykes, D Fritz, L Harland, A Vowles. **Substitutes:** J Pickering, I Tonks, G Tallec, J Wells.

SALFORD REDS: G Broadbent; J Hayes, B Thompson, S Martin, P Cange; S Blakeley, M Crompton; N Baynes, M Aiker, P Southern, H Smith, D Hulme, G Casey. **Substitutes:** J Faimalo, S Svabic, P Highton, C Briggs.

Referee: S Cummings (Widnes)

RUGBY UNION

Kingston rules out Richmond exodus

Richmond	23
Bath	30

By Mark Souster

AT THE end of the most traumatic week in Richmond's life, Ashley Levett turned up at the Madejski Stadium for the first time since dropping his financial bombshell. Wisely he did not try to see the players, from whom he might not have received the warmest of receptions, and found himself displaced from his normal seat in the director's box. That was taken by Heath Sinclair, the New Zealand-born administrator charged with sorting out the mess created by Levett's sudden exit.

Sinclair would have been delighted with a record crowd of 10,096, providing receipts of more than £120,000, and the pervading sense of goodwill towards the club. All in all not a bad start, although a victory would have been nice.

In the circumstances, that was probably asking too much. Sinclair has had to be ruthless in cutting jobs across the board but John Kingston, the director of rugby, is adamant that further savings will not come from a sale of the prime assets, his players. And he believes he has the necessary assurances that this will not happen. "If they start selling players, I go," Kingston said.

"There would be no point carrying on," Kingston continued. "We will not sell players against their wishes if I am here. I am a stubborn git and also a man of my word. If somebody turned round and sold Craig Quinnell, how can you look Barry Williams in the eye and say there is something to stay here for?

"The same goes for Ben Clarke, Allan Bateman, all of them. We will stick together. You don't win anything by selling your best players."

Having halved weekly running costs, the serious business of finding new investors begins in earnest. Mention has been made of approaches to John Madejski, the owner of Reading, but a trawl through Richmond's many affluent members would surely unearth individuals willing and able to offer a lifeline by taking a stake in Richmond Vikings Ltd, the new investment company formed by the club.

If Newcastle can find a saviour with gates of barely 3,500, then Richmond, who can look forward to some bumper crowds over the next few weeks, should be able to. Sinclair has budgeted for an average attendance of 7,000 for the remaining home matches, which include a cup semi-final and high-profile fixtures against Wasps, Harlequins and Northampton.

The off-field problems aside, Richmond's cause was not helped by the withdrawal on Saturday morning of Quinnell and Bateman. Kingston decided that Quinnell should serve his one-match ban for collecting three white cards sooner rather than later, while Bateman has a calf injury. Although they matched Bath with two tries apiece, Richmond lost because they conceded too many penalties and failed to contest the restarts, where the athleticism of Borthwick and Lyle stood out.

Mike Catt converted six penalties in front of Clive Woodward, the England coach, and his overall control surely means he will replace the injured Paul Grayson in the England team to face France.

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: Vander (22 min), R Hutton (74). **Conversions:** Va'a 2. **Penalty goals:** Va'a 3 (12, 31, 55). **Bath: Tries:** Adebayo (14), Perry (16). **Conversion:** Catt. **Penalty goals:** Catt 6 (40, 43, 49, 59, 69, 77).

SCORING SEQUENCE: (Richmond first): 3-0, 3-5, 3-12, 13-12, 13-15 (half-time), 13-18, 13-21, 16-21, 16-24, 16-27, 23-27, 23-30.

RICHMOND: M Pini (rep: L Best, 23-29); N Walne, J Wright, M Dixon (rep: M Deane, 77), S Brown; E Va'a, A Pichot; D McFarland, B Williams, D Crompton, A Sheridan, C Gillies, R Hutton, A Vander (rep: B Cusack, 59-62), B Clarke.

BATH: M Perry; I Balshaw, K Maggs, J Guscott, A Adebayo; M Catt, G Cooper; D Hilton, M Regan, V Ubogu (rep: J Mallett, 75), M Haag, S Borthwick, R Earnshaw, R Bryan, D Lyle.

Referee: G Hughes (RFU).

Sale claim incentive from Wray comments

Sale	32
Saracens	24

By A Correspondent

IT WAS tempting fate and perhaps gave Sale just the incentive they needed. In openly questioning the Cheshire side's legitimacy as a Premiership club, Nigel Wray, the millionaire owner of Saracens, may well have pulled the rug from under his club's title hopes.

"It was a very disappointing result for us," Mark Evans, their coach, said. "We had felt we were still in with a chance if we could put a run of victories together but should Leicester win, then that's it." Forty minutes later the Tigers' victory at Franklins Gardens was confirmed.

That Saracens created sufficient chances to have taken both points was not even questioned by John Mitchell, the Sale coach. "But we won because we played the full 80 minutes with a lot of passion, hunger and commitment." And they had used the Wray comments, he said, "as fuel".

Where Sale won the contest, and fully deserved to, was in the midfield region — where Jos Baxendell and Chris Yates tore the Saracens defence apart — and around the set-piece fringes, where the Sanderson brothers were relentless in their tackling.

Sale have not enjoyed much luck this season but their strike rate, 61 tries in 21 league games, says much for their positive attitude. On Saturday their attacking enterprise was matched for once by a solid and watchful defence.

For the first 20 minutes, Sale barely left their own half, and did well to restrict their opponents to 13-3, but a blistering 60-metre break by Baxendell earned the centre a try and a standing ovation and settled his colleagues so well that by half-time they led 18-13.

Sale's second try, started and finished by Yates from a counter-attack near his own 22, stunned Saracens and led to a string of penalties from which Shane Howarth, who eventually kicked six goals and hit the posts with three other efforts, punished them still further.

At half-time Saracens were forced to reflect on their own missed opportunities, largely through over-elaboration, but the truth was that they never came to terms with the extravagant miss-moves that Baxendell and Howarth used to create massive holes in midfield.

Adopting a tighter and more forceful frontal assault in the second period, Saracens had the better of things but could manage only one more try when the elusive Alain Penaud caught Sale asleep with a quickly-taken tap penalty.

Howarth and Rob Thirlby each added two more penalties and, at 27-24, Sale were hanging on by their fingertips as both Brendon Daniel and Ryan Constable were denied within reaching distance of the try-line.

Yet a sudden breakout by Sale's No 8, Dion O'Cuinneagain, in injury time, when Saracens lost control of a line-out, saw Yates batter his way out of four tackles before Howarth's pass put Simon Raiwalui in at the corner. It was Sale's first league win at home since December 12 and, should the drier weather conditions continue, Mitchell predicted there would be more.

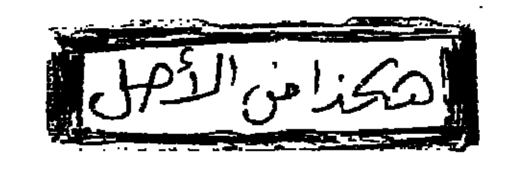
SCORERS: Sale: Tries: Baxendell (26), Yates (37), Raiwalui (82). **Conversion:** Howarth. **Penalty goals:** Howarth 5 (20, 40, 43, 53, 59). **Saracens: Tries:** Hill 17, Penaud 47. **Conversion:** Thirlby. **Penalty goals:** Thirlby 3 (26, 50, 63). **Dropped goal:** Penaud (22).

SCORING SEQUENCE: 0-7, 3-7, 3-10, 3-13, 8-13, 15-13, 18-13 (half-time), 21-13, 21-18, 21-21, 24-21, 27-21, 27-24, 32-24.

SALE: J Mallinder; D Rees, J Baxendell, C Yates, M Moore; S Howarth, K Ellis (rep: R Smith, 58); D Bell, R Greening, D Theron, S Raiwalui, C Murphy (rep: D Baldwin, 66), P Sanderson, A Sanderson, D O'Cuinneagain.

SARACENS: E Thirlby (rep: G Johnson, 80); R Constable, J Thomson, K Sorrell, B Daniel; A Penaud, K Bracken; R Grau, G Chuter, P Wallace, K Chesney, P Johns, R Hill, F Pienaar, T Diprose (rep: P Ogilvie 40).

Referee: C Rees (London)



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Neath too late to punish changes

Allied Dunbar Premiership: Another visit to sin-bin a mere hiccup for England lock

Majestic Johnson gives Leicester edge in title drive

Northampton....................15
Leicester..........................22

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

YOU cannot keep Martin Johnson out of the news these days. Nor can you lose sight of the referees, whose decisions can make or break not only matches but title hopes. Indeed Johnson, whose 29th birthday was last Tuesday, has been receiving cards from match officials for a month now, only there has been a singular absence of greetings in them.

The England lock was, yet again, simply outstanding at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday. The Allied Dunbar Premiership is now within Leicester's grasp after they opened up an eight-point lead on their nearest challengers, Northampton, and Johnson's implacable attitude, his utter refusal to compromise any aspect of his game, will ensure they do not stumble during the six-match run-in to the title.

"He is probably the best forward England have got, if not the best in Europe," Dean Richards, the Leicester team manager, said. That is typical understatement: Johnson is up there with John Eales, of Australia, as one of the world's best tight forwards, a profile so high that inevitably he has further to fall than most.

He plays, as so many of the great forwards have always done, on the edge of the law and referees are acutely aware of it. Thus they have handed Johnson two yellow cards in internationals and two white cards in club matches over the last four Saturdays. One was subsequently quashed, another described as "innocuous" by the official who awarded it and here, a foot placed on a Northampton forward lying offside was enough to earn Johnson another ten minutes in the sin-bin.

It was the second of three white cards dispensed by David McHugh, the international referee, but it was his decision to award one penalty try and not to award another which swung the match Leicester's way — that and their refusal to concede an inch when their own indiscipline had reduced them to 13 men.

They are too good a team to need the sly nudges and checks that infuriate opponents and officials, yet they play with such heart, pride and passion that the second of their three tries — against Northampton's five penalty goals — came during the four minutes when they were short of Johnson and Pat Howard.

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dispatched for killing the ball after a storming breakout by Ben Cohen.

When, rather than if, Leicester lift the Premiership they deserve to have the plaudits for what they have done as a team rather than condemnation for a few overt trespasses and players who wear their hearts on their sleeves.

Richards refuses to look further ahead than the next game, against Wasps. Yet the reaction of their players at the final whistle showed they feel a massive hurdle has been cleared.

They have played nearly all this season without two international centres, Will Greenwood and Stuart Potter, and for half the season will have been without two international half backs, Austin Healey and Joel Stransky, who has surgery on his damaged knee today and could be missing for a further six weeks.

No surprise, therefore, that on the soft surfaces of an English winter they should take route one to victory, through their hard-driving forwards of whom the controlled Martin Corry provides the perfect antidote to the fiersome edge of Johnson and the caperings of Richard Cockerill.

Yet what if McHugh had chosen to award Northampton a penalty try midway through the second half, when Cohen's sinuous run found Budge Pountney in support before Jamie Hamilton pulled him down five metres short of the line? Howard unquestionably prevented quick release and when Matt Dawson gave him a poke for his pains, Johnson and Cockerill descended upon the Northampton scrum half like avenging furies.

That would have been 16-8 to Northampton, even though their set-pieces were slowly dismantled, notably the lineout where Fritz van Heerden gave Tim Rodber a miserable afternoon. Instead they had to be content with a penalty and, within seven minutes, fell to a sucker punch.

Howard had created the moment of the first half with a sumptuous pass which cut out three players and gave Leon Lloyd space on the right. Craig Joiner looped outside him and scudded out of Andy Northey's tackle to make the line. Corry's try was altogether more prosaic, a low, stabbed throw by Cockerill to the front of a lineout and a barrelling ten-metre charge through Dawson to the corner.

McHugh reserved his ire for the final five minutes. Matt Stewart threw a punch and left for the sin-bin, the Northampton pack weakened beyond repair. Forced into the corner, they were twice penalised on their own line and Leicester's scrum squeezed out the almost-inevitable penalty try that earned them victory.

Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said: "Leicester showed why they lead the division and we are second — they don't make mistakes, they don't give points away."

SCORERS: Northampton: Penalty goals: Dawson 5 (8min, 46, 54, 59, 69). Leicester: Tries: Joiner (24), Corry (66), penalty try (81). Conversions: Stimpson (2). Penalty goal: Stimpson (47).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Northampton first): 3-0, 3-5 (half-time), 6-5, 6-8, 9-8, 12-8, 12-15, 15-15, 15-22.
NORTHAMPTON: N Beal, C Moir, A Northey, M Allen, B Cohen, A Hepher, M Dawson, M Volland, F Mendez, M Stewart (sin-bin 77min), R Metcalfe, T Rodber, D Mackinnon (rep: M Hynes, 78), A Pountney, P Lam.
LEICESTER: T Stimpson, L Lloyd (rep: N Ezulike, 76), C Joiner, J Stuart (rep: G Murphy, 42), D Lougheed, P Howard (sin-bin, 58-68), J Hamilton, D Jelley (rep: G Rowntree, 63), R Cockerill (rep: D West, 76), D Garforth, M Johnson (sin-bin, 65-75), F van Heerden, L Moody (rep: W Johnson, 69), N Back, M Corry.
Referee: D McHugh (Ireland).
☐ Leicester's next matches: March 27 v Wasps (h). April 3 v Bath (a). 17 v Saracens (h). 24 v Sale (a). May 2 v Newcastle (a). 15 v West Hartlepool (h).

Grayson injury gives Woodward problem

CLIVE WOODWARD would surely have announced tomorrow an unchanged team to play France in the Five Nations Championship at Twickenham on Saturday but for a groin injury to Paul Grayson (David Hands writes). That injury will oblige him to make a difficult decision at fly half: whether to restore Mike Catt or move Jonathan Wilkinson from centre to what will surely prove his long-term international position.

Grayson, the Northampton fly half, damaged his groin against Ireland on March 6 but had recovered well enough to be considered for his club's game with Leicester last Saturday. However on a training run 24 hours before the game he pulled up and "couldn't get out of second gear". He has an inflammation of the pubic bone and has been told to rest completely for a fortnight to aid recovery.

He may not play again for six weeks which would mean missing the Wales game, also on April 11. "At least I've had the chance to get back in and put down a marker [against Ireland]" Grayson said, "but I just keep on getting injured."

Given the confident manner in which Wilkinson has settled into his role at centre and the fact that he is not playing fly half for Newcastle, Woodward seems more likely to opt for Catt at No 10.


JAMIE McDONALD

O'Shea, of London Irish, finds his path blocked during his side's defeat at the hands of Wasps at Loftus Road yesterday

Wasps maintain momentum

Wasps.............................38
London Irish.....................27

By David Hands

TWENTY-FOUR hours earlier Dean Richards, the Leicester coach, had given warning that the strongest challenge facing his team in pursuit of the Allied Dunbar Premiership could come from Wasps. At a sunlit Loftus Road yesterday the North London club promptly bore him out, taking the whip hand over London Irish in the first half and then constructing a brick wall in defence that the Irish could only breach as the clock ran down.

Success moved Wasps into fifth place in the first-division table, and though their revival is too late to rattle the leaders, they should consolidate a qualifying place for Europe if English clubs return to that competition next season. Nigel Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, said: "If we are going to get into Europe, it used to be a top-four reward and we will base our efforts on that."

Whereas Wasps have run into a rich vein of form on the back of their progress to the semi-finals of the Tetley's Bitter Cup, the Irish balloon has deflated alarmingly. First they fell foul of the Leicester steamroller, then they were removed from the cup by Wasps and, in addition, they picked up another long-term injury yesterday in Niall Woods, their leading points scorer, who tore a hamstring and could well miss Ireland's summer tour to Australia.

That the Irish finished as strongly as they did was immensely to their credit, but for 24 frustrating minutes they hammered away at the Wasps line and earned nothing. Perhaps they depended too much on Brendan Venter to organise a path to the line but the South African centre found, in Mark Denney, a worthy opponent whose tackling seldom faltered. It gave Wasps a sound base and, within six minutes, they had scored two tries.

Peter Scrivener rolled over for the first of his two tries (he repeated the feat at the start of the second half) from a close-range lineout before precise work gave Paul Sampson a try in the opposite corner. Lawrence Dallaglio set up the position with a storming run into midfield, leaving Alex King and Denney to complete the preliminaries for Sampson.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, would have been heartened to see such consistency from young, England-qualified players, though he could take pleasure, too, from the Irish response. Colin Hawke, the referee, awarded a free kick against Martyn Wood for a dummy behind a scrum: Woods and Conor O'Shea unpicked the retreating defence and made 30 metres before Nick Burrows completed the move.

Yet the Irish, on as good a day for running rugby as has been seen this year, could not hold on to their passes. "You put yourself under pressure when you make mistakes and we made plenty," Dick Best, their director of rugby, said.

The home side stretched their lead through Mark Weedon, their captain, from another close-range lineout and the goalkicking of Kenny Logan. He ended with 18 points, taking him past 250 in his club season and making sure that Wasps could keep the Irish at arm's length.

Wasps' commitment in defence was underscored when, having weathered the storm in the second half, they went back downfield and Logan kicked his third penalty. Ten minutes remained when Venter found space on the short side of a scrum and took the return pass from Woods as the wing pulled up limping. Venter and Jarrod Cunningham, the replacement for Woods, also paved the way for a long-range try by Justin Bishop, but it was too little too late.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Scrivener 2 (3min, 42), Sampson (6), Weedon (26). Conversions: Logan 3. Penalty goals: Logan 4 (31, 40, 47, 74). London Irish: Tries: Burrows (20), Venter (71), Bishop (81). Conversions: Woods, Cunningham 2. Penalty goals: Woods 2 (33, 47).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps first): 7-0, 12-0, 12-7, 19-7, 22-7, 22-10, 25-10 (half-time), 32-10, 32-13, 35-13, 35-20, 38-20, 38-27.
WASPS: G Rees; P Sampson, F Waters, M Denney, K Logan; A King, M Wood (rep: M Friday, 54min); D Molloy, T Leota (rep: S Mitchell, 68), W Green, M Weedon, A Reed (rep: S Shaw, 59), L Dallaglio, J Worsley, P Scrivener.
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea; J Bishop, N Burrows, B Venter, N Woods (rep: J Cunningham, 71); S Bachop, K Putt; N Hatley (rep: P Rogers, 57), M Howe (rep: R Kirke, 63), K Fullman (rep: R Hardwick, 45), R Strudwick (rep: M Bird, 74), N Harvey, J Boer, R Gallacher, K Spicer.
Referee: C Hawke (New Zealand).

Tuigamala turns on style to lift Newcastle

NEWCASTLE produced a polished performance to beat Swansea 43-25, with Jim Naylor and Va'aiga Tuigamala each running in two tries.

It was 21-6 at half-time and only when Newcastle took their feet off the pedals in the closing stages did the visitors secure a few points.

Making their first visit to Kingston Park, Swansea opened the scoring with a Lee Davies penalty, but were soon behind when a reverse pass from Tuigamala sent in Naylor.

Jimmy Cartmell, the England Under-21 flanker, was driven over from a lineout and then Naylor shot through for his second try, before Davies struck another penalty before the interval. In the second half, a disastrous pass from Rhodri Jones, the scrum half, was dropped over his own line by Alex Lawson, the full back, and Tony Underwood snapped up the gift.

Tuigamala toyed with the opposition for his two efforts, and also sent in Stuart Legg with some sleight of hand. The Newcastle full-back rounded off his excellent performance with four conversions.

☐ Manchester and Henley are assured of promotion to the second division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership after victories on Saturday at Camberley and against Wharfedale respectively.

Jobs threat brews up fightback from West

West Hartlepool........33
Gloucester...............32

By Alasdair Reid

NOT a thing of beauty, but an afternoon of vibrant entertainment all the same. The West Hartlepool players had redundancy threats from Mike Brewer, their coach, ringing in their ears and played with raw tenacity as they fought to ensure their first division survival. They still have a mountain to climb, but on this showing, it could yet be achieved.

Steve Vile, the West fly half, kicked seven goals from eight attempts, mocking Gloucester's 5-2 advantage on tries. *Those statistics might suggest* Gloucester were unlucky, but nothing should diminish praise for West Hartlepool's vigorous defiance.

Changing ends 18-22 down, West thundered into the Gloucester defence with some forceful running by their pack and edged ahead on the scoreboard with a couple of penalties and a dropped goal by Vile. Gloucester then seemed to have snatched the win when Ojomoh and Mapletoft scored tries shortly after the hour mark, but two more penalties by Vile saw West home in the closing minutes.

The home side matched Gloucester score-for-score for most of the first period, although woeful errors by their opponents allowed them to do so. Only their self-belief suggested they could triumph.

Their first try stemmed from a five-metre scrum. It was a beautifully executed score by Vile, who sped on to his scrum-half's pass and danced through three attempted tackles.

A powerful score by Carter, the Gloucester flanker, restored parity, but another dreadful mistake allowed West to cross their line. Fanolua sliced a clearance kick towards Brewer, who slipped the scoring pass to Duane Monkley. After a penalty by Mapletoft, a superb 50-yard try by Beim, the left wing, put Gloucester 15-12 ahead.

A Gloucester penalty try just before the interval suggested their superior forward strength would be brought to bear after the turn. Instead, the crowd saw a side fighting like dogs. The West players' livelihoods were on the line and they responded superbly.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Tries: Vile (10), Monkley (16). Conversion: Vile. Penalty goals: Vile 6 (33, 40, 42, 56, 67, 75). Dropped goal: Vile (59). Gloucester: Tries: Carter (12), Beim (25), penalty try (40), Ojomoh (61), Mapletoft (65). Conversion: Mapletoft. Penalty goal: Mapletoft (21).
SCORING SEQUENCE: 7-0, 7-7, 12-7, 12-10, 12-15, 15-15, 15-22, 18-22 (half-time), 21-22, 24-22, 27-22, 27-27, 27-32, 30-32, 33-32.
WEST HARTLEPOOL: E Farrell (rep: T Handley, 27min; rep: G MacLure, 71); J Benson, M Mullins, P Greaves, S John; S Vile, T Nu'uali'itia; S Sparks, S McDonald, K Fourie, P Farrier, M Glachen, J Ponton, D Monkley, M Brewer.
GLOUCESTER: C Catling; B Johnson (rep: P Saint-Andre, 59min), T Fanolua, S Mannix, T Beim; M Mapletoft, S Benton (rep: I Sanders, 59); T Woodman (rep: A Windo, 74), N McCarthy (rep: C Fortey, 74), A Deacon, R Fidler, D Sims, E Pearce (rep: A Hazell, 65), N Carter, S Ojomoh. Referee: B Campsall (Halifax).

Neath too late to punish changes

Ebbw Vale........................25
Neath...............................24

By Gerald Davies

TWO points arose in this match which turned a fast but largely uninspiring game into an interesting one. The days when a team reduced to 14 men can still give a good account of themselves and offer a surprise or two have not gone, despite the law changes which nowadays weigh so much in favour of the dominant team. Mike Turner, Neath's lock, was sent off after 17 minutes for allegedly stamping on an opponent.

Secondly, the practice of making a plethora of substitutes towards the end of the match, which most teams get up to nowadays, was highlighted to be both silly and incomprehensible. Ebbw Vale changed half of their pack for the final quarter during which they had gone from holding a 25-3 lead to finish hanging on by their fingernails.

The home team have quietly climbed to second position behind Llanelli at the top of the Welsh premier division. Pontypridd lie third, with a game in hand on the leaders.

Ebbw Vale might have been in a better position had they acquired the extra bonus point which was theirs by virtue of their lead 18 minutes from time. Instead, the visitors turned the tables and, in the final six minutes, scored three tries, all converted by Pearce, to take the bonus point for themselves. As the defeated team, they earned it by scoring three tries and staying within ten points of the leaders.

Even with the departure of Turner, the visitors managed, territorially, to get the better of the home side. By the interval, the teams were level with a penalty each from Strange and Pearce. Both teams nearly scored tries but their defences held out at crucial moments.

But with Hawker's try converted by Strange soon after the interval, it seemed Neath's resistance was about to crack. This was confirmed by the penalty and the couple of tries that followed. Ebbw Vale felt comfortable, too comfortable. They made their irresponsible changes and everything fell apart. Their solidity in the scrum disappeared. Neath began winning the ball and spread the home team's defence. They were duly rewarded when Shane Williams, the scrum half, scored two tries. He had moved positions when Horgan departed the field with an injury. Johnson, who was Horgan's replacement, scored the other try.

SCORERS: Ebbw Vale: Tries: Hawker (45min), Llewellyn (66), Budgett (72). Conversions: Strange 2. Penalty goals: Strange 2 (12, 57). Neath: Tries: Williams 2 (75, 79), Johnson (60). Conversions: Pearce 3. Penalty goal: Pearce (20).
SCORING SEQUENCE: 3-0, 3-3 (half-time), 10-3, 13-3, 18-3, 25-3, 25-10, 25-17, 25-24.
EBBW VALE: S Taumalolo; D Manley, J Hawker (rep: G Williams, 70min), J Funnell, L Olsen; J Strange, D Llewellyn; I Thomas (rep: A Phillips, 52), L Phillips (rep: A Peacock, 63), A Metcalfe, C Billen (rep: L Banks, 63), K Faterau, G Green, R Collins, N Budgett (rep: M Spiller, 74).
NEATH: S Stephens; D Williams (rep: R James, 68), D Tiueti, T Davies, S Williams; M Pearce, P Horgan (rep: R Johnson, 52); L Gerard, M Davies, D Perisini (rep: M Thomas, 78), M Turner, A Jackson, S Martin, D Jones, B Sinkinson (rep: G Newman, 70).
Referee: D Davies (Llanbradach).

Scottish pay the penalty

London Scottish...............15
Bedford............................24

By Alan Pearey

HAS the worm finally turned for Bedford? The spectators who danced in the Stoop Memorial Ground aisles after victory on Saturday seemed to think so. Rudi Straeuli's beleaguered side, who last month relied on a missed penalty to beat Wasps, were trailing London Scottish with two minutes to go and seemingly set for their seventeenth defeat of the season.

Then came an unexpected turnaround in Bedford's fortunes. Jannie de Beer, the London Scottish fly half, kicked out on the full; the Bedford throw-in at the lineout was crooked but the Scottish pack lost the scrum against the head. Dan Harris broke through in the midfield and, with Tony Yapp preparing for the dropped-goal attempt, Scottish went over the top at the maul. Penalty to Bedford.

Up stepped Yapp, the Bedford fly half, to kick the penalty from in front of the posts. "It was the most important kick of my life," he said. "There was a bit of banter from the Scottish players but I put it from my mind." Rory Underwood, on as a replacement, finished the Exiles off with an interception try.

"We're still in the danger zone but everyone's smiling at the moment," Straeuli, the Bedford coach, said. "The chances are we won't be out of the bottom two by the end of the season, but we haven't given up."

Despite squandering a succession of chances, Scottish looked to have done enough when Mick Watson scored just past the hour. But Bedford hit back with a Yapp penalty and took full advantage of the luck that came their way.

John Steele, Scottish's director of rugby, was disappointed to see his team lose to Bedford for the second time this season. "We were poor. We didn't do the basics well and Bedford just waited for our mistakes."

SCORERS: London Scottish: Tries: Bonney (15min), Watson (63). Conversion: De Beer. Penalty goal: De Beer (57). Bedford: Tries: Forster (4), Underwood (80). Conversion: Yapp. Penalty goals: Yapp 4 (38, 59, 71, 80).
SCORING SEQUENCE (London Scottish first): 0-5, 5-5, 5-8 (half-time), 5-11, 12-11, 15-11, 15-14, 15-17, 15-24.
LONDON SCOTTISH: S Binns; K Milligan, J Bonney, R Davies (rep: D Lee, 60min), C Sharman; J de Beer, G Easterby (rep: S Cook, 77); P Johnstone, D Rudham (rep: D Cummins, 67), P Burnell, E Jones, M Watson, S Fenn, S Holmes, R Hunter (rep: T Davies, 63-64).
BEDFORD: S Stewart; B Whetstone, A Murdoch (rep: R Underwood, 77), D Harris (rep: R Underwood, 21-31), D O'Mahony; T Yapp, C Harrison; A Olver, J Richards, C Boyd (rep: A Ozdemir, 55), A Codling (rep: D Zaltzman, 67), S Murray, R Winters, J Forster, J Paramore (rep: J Cockle, 42; sin-bin, 47-57).
Referee: R Goodliffe (Yorkshire).

Jackson inspires Aldwinians

Aldwinians.........................13
Ilkeston...............................8

By Barry Trowbridge

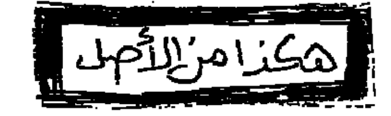
ALDWINIANS secured a place in the NPI Cup Final with as resolute a piece of defending as you are likely to find in the junior-club game at Audenshaw Park, near Manchester, on Saturday.

When Aldwinians beat Maidstone 42-0 in the quarter-finals, word was that the players from Kent had never suffered such fierce tackling as they did that day, and with Michael Jackson, the former Wakefield playmaker, pegging Ilkeston back whenever he had the opportunity, chances were few and far between.

Having won their own quarter-final 42-15, with a marvellous display of 15-man handling, Ilkeston were justifiably confident, but Jackson nipped back round the narrow side to open the scoring after a fiery start, and thereafter put together a mixture of ball release and tactical kicking that Ilkeston could not counter, despite an endless supply of lineout possession from John Taylor.

Aldwinians' opponents at Twickenham on April 17 will be Dudley-Kingswinford, who beat Barnstaple 10-6 on Saturday, and will start as favourites purely because of a league status two levels higher, but if Jackson is on top of his form there will be no surprise if yet another trophy finds it way to Manchester.

SCORERS: Aldwinians: Tries: M Jackson (3min), R Skeife (44). Penalty goal: Jackson (35). Ilkeston: Try: K Dove (61). Penalty goal: W Bell (14).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Aldwinians first): 5-0, 5-3, 8-3, (half-time) 13-3, 13-8.



Hourigan issues timely reminder

Alan Lee finds the trainer of forgotten horse Dorans Pride in bullish mood

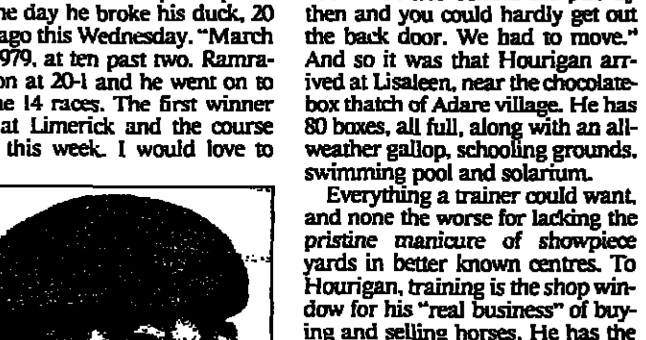


There are those in racing who lean heavily upon privilege, breeding and financial comfort. And then there are those such as Michael Hourigan. If Dorans Pride wins the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup on Thursday, the triumph will be one of poignancy and perseverance but, most of all, it will be that of a man who created his dream from the backyard of a pub. In more than one sense, it is a long way to the winner's enclosure at Cheltenham from the modest village inn south of Limerick where Hourigan started — and very nearly stopped — training. But he has made the journey once and he is irrepressibly convinced that Dorans Pride can take him there again. This is the fifth successive Festival for Dorans Pride. So far, the tally reads one win, two thirds and a fall.

The difference, this time, is that he has been usurped as the pride of Ireland. Florida Pearl carries the bulk of the punts and passion for the Gold Cup and Dorans Pride has been relatively overlooked. Which suits his trainer just fine.

"It's meant I haven't had fellows like you annoying me," he said as we settled in his kitchen. The rebuke, though, was offered with the twinkle of mischief that seldom leaves Hourigan's round and distinctly Irish face. Incorrigible humour has been a valued companion since he went through his first six years as a trainer without a single winner.

"My parents ran a pub in Rathkeale and we had two stables out the back when I started in 1973. I used to have to duck in and out of the local fields with the horses because my father's land wasn't big enough to train on. I guess that's why it took me so long to get going." He recalls with proud precision the day he broke his duck, 20 years ago this Wednesday. "March 17th, 1979, at ten past two. Ramrajya won at 20-1 and he went on to win me 14 races. The first winner came at Limerick and the course closes this week. I would love to have a winner at their final meeting." The anniversary is a reminder of Hourigan's breadline days. "It didn't come easy.


Hourigan: growing in confidence

"There were no privileges and I was trying to break into a game that none of my family were involved in. My parents had left me the pub in 1976 but things were tough and I was on the point of giving up the training when the first winner came along." It would be wrong to say Hourigan never looked back, for he has the humility of one constantly aware of the battle life has been.

But by the mid-1980s he knew he was making a go of horses. "We had 22 stables behind the pub by then and you could hardly get out the back door. We had to move." And so it was that Hourigan arrived at Lisaleen, near the chocolate-box thatch of Adare village. He has 80 boxes, all full, along with an all-weather gallop, schooling grounds, swimming pool and solarium.

Everything a trainer could want, and none the worse for lacking the pristine manicure of showpiece yards in better known centres. To Hourigan, training is the shop window for his "real business" of buying and selling horses. He has the salesman's gift, too. "We had a television crew here the other day. By the time they'd gone, I'd sold the presenter a horse." He envisages no downturn in business through the current vogue for French-bred horses. "It's short-termism. A trainer can buy a winner off the Flat in France but he can't buy a horse to last. They'll come back here and appreciate us all the more."

Dorans Pride, nearside, will attempt to improve on two successive third places in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup on Thursday

Hourigan used to bet but claims he gave it up after laying out a horse for a gamble last year. "I was going to have two grand on him but went cold on it and had £200 instead. He got beat that day, then won his next four. It was a lesson. I don't even play cards now, since losing £3,500 in a night playing poker on this table," he added, slapping the offending surface resentfully.

He does admit to taking a drink, though, and will not be shy of a drop if Dorans Pride manages to improve on his two successive Gold Cup thirds. Try as he might to play down the prospect, Hourigan's confidence rises with each sentence. "His preparation has been a little different this year. We haven't run him so often and he's been fresh since Christmas. He's never had a hiccup and he's only been forgotten because there is always a younger kid on the block.

"People like to pick flaws in him and he was written off by many before he won the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown in December. Luckily, a lot of my friends still believed and have backed him at 50-1 to win that race and the Gold Cup. I tell you, there are no holes in Dorans Pride. None at all."

One sadness intrudes upon Hourigan's enthusiasm. Dorans Pride would have been ridden on Thursday by Shane Broderick, who won the Stayers' Hurdle on him three years ago and was third in the 1997 Gold Cup. But Broderick is partially paralysed since a fall at Fairyhouse two years ago, one of those incidents that unite the National Hunt world in grief and dread.

Paul Carberry will be aboard this week and Hourigan is gathering his clan around him. "If it is to happen, I'd like my family around me," he said. Of his five children, three already work in the yard and one senses that the youngest, Mark, will be pressed into useful duty any day now. He will, after all, be five on Gold Cup day, the perfect cue for a double celebration.

TAUNTON

ROB WRIGHT
2.10 Connaught Cracker (nap) 2.40 Flahive's First 3.10 Andsuephi 3.40 Twinnings Grove 4.10 Francesca's Folly 4.40 Certain Angle 5.10 Jalb
Timekeeper's top rating: 2.40 OUT'N'ABOUT.
Carl Evans: 4.40 Certain Angle.

GOING: SOFT — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F—fell. P—pulled up. U—unseated rider. B—brought down. S—slipped up. R—refused. D—disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B—blinkers. V—visor. H—hood. E—Eyeshield. C—course winner. D—distance winner. CD—course and distance winner. BF—beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F—firm, good to firm, hard. G—good. S—soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

2.10 WELLINGTON MONUMENT HANDICAP CHASE (£2,775: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

101 253/U- PONTYNYSWEN 854F (D,G,S) (P Bowen) P Bowen 11-11-13 .... R Thornton —
102 0-222F CONNAUGHT CRACKER 28 (BF,F) (Mrs A Tincknell) P Nicholls 9-11-7 .... J Tizzard 113
103 221223 NORTHERN SADDLER 3 (C,D,F,G,S) (R Hodges) R Hodges 12-11-0 .... A P McCoy 106
104 25-202 JASON'S BOY 19 (B,F,G,S) (W Jones) J Bradley 9-10-10 .... S Durack 106
105 P1-FUU SILENT GUNS 16P (S) (G Edwards) G Edwards 10-10-0 .... D Salter —
106 -3022U SOUTH WEST EXPRESS 20 (S) (Negative Vibes) D Wintle 7-10-0 .... J Mogford (7) 109

BETTING: 5-2 Connaught Cracker, 11-4 Northern Saddler, 3-1 Jason's Boy, South West Express, 20-1 others.

1998: BEYOND OUR REACH 10-10-9 J Harris (7-2) R Hodges 7 ran

FORM ANALYSIS CONNAUGHT CRACKER has proved frustrating this season, following three seconds with a fall, when travelling well, last time out. However, the form of his previous effort behind Fourth In Line here at Taunton in December gives him claims second to none, and a change of luck looks overdue. Northern Saddler, a fortuitous winner at Newton Abbot last month when let in by the last-fence departure of Rockforce, looks the main threat. He has since returned creditable efforts in making the frame three times, most recently at Hereford on Friday when beaten 2½ lengths into third by Stedlach, and looks sure to go well if fully recovered from those exertions. Jasons Boy probably needs further and, though seldom far away, finds little under pressure and can invariably be taken on. South West Express may also find the trip on the sharp side but was in the process of running a big race, leading and still travelling well, when unseating at Ludlow last time. He cannot be ruled out.

2.40 MELODY MAN CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,775: 2m 3f 110yd) (6 runners)

201 12342F OUT'N'ABOUT 77 (F) (E Gunner) P Nicholls 4-11-10 .... Mr S Stronge (7) 113
202 0230-F NORTHERN DRUMS 20 (C,F,G) (R Pyke) M Pipe 6-11-9 .... A P McCoy —
203 G-522F MERSHIGINER 79 (Glenmore Investments Ltd) S Sherwood 6-11-6 .... D Gallagher 64
204 23305 MR SNAGGLE 11 (D,F,S) (Plum Merchants) Simon Earle 10-10-4 .... J A McCarthy 78
205 356F44 FLAHIVE'S FIRST 11 (G) (D Gould) R J Price 5-10-3 .... A Dobbin 95
206 013-2 MISSED THE BOAT 752F (BF,D,F) (R Harding) Mrs S Williams 9-10-2 .... R Widger (5) —

BETTING: 5-4 Out N'About, 7-2 Northern Drums, 4-1 Flahive's First, 9-2 Mr Snaggle, 11-2 Mershiginer, 7-1 Missed The Boat

1998: O'NAAN 5-11-2 J Lower (8-1) M Pipe 12 ran

FORM ANALYSIS Northern Drums got no further than the first on his chase debut last month and is promptly returned to hurdles. Though recording four wins over the smaller obstacles last season, two of them were in selling company and the handicapper appeared to have his measure when stumps were drawn. Preference here is for OUT'N'ABOUT. Paul Nicholls' charge showed useful form in defeat after winning at Ludlow in October and has been freshened up since falling in the grade one Finale Hurdle at Chepstow in December. Flahive's First, winner of a couple of sellers in August, showed he is capable of figuring off this sort of mark when under 10 lengths fourth to Two Lords at Ludlow last time (Mr Snaggle fifth and held), but Mershiginer was well held when falling at the last on his handicap bow at Hereford on Boxing Day.

3.10 ORCHARD RESTAURANT NOVICES CHASE (£4,577: 2m 3f) (4 runners)

301 1-1231 LAREDO 4 (D,F,G,S) (Trading Thoroughbreds Ltd) P Nicholls 6-12-0 .... J Tizzard 106
302 40P-13 ANDSUEPHI 23 (G,S) (Mrs J Cohen) S Sherwood 7-11-8 .... G Bradley 108
303 1-UP53 ECHO'S OF DAWN 13 (S) (Middleham Park Racing XVII) J Upson 7-11-2 .... J Supple 105
304 P5-P POLO KIT 97 (G Richards) Graham Richards 8-11-2 .... M Griffiths (5) —

BETTING: 4-5 Andsuephi, 7-4 Laredo, 6-1 Echo's Of Dawn, 33-1 Polo Kit.

1998: AVANTI EXPRESS 8-11-3 N Williamson (6-4) C Egerton 4 ran

FORM ANALYSIS ANDSUEPHI, a promising novice hurdler for Charlie Brooks last season, has the size and scope to make a useful chaser and is fancied to prove too strong for Laredo. The selection made the perfect start to his chasing career when trotting up at Wincanton in January before a combination of sloppy jumping and lack of stamina proved his undoing in the three-mile Reynoldstown Chase at Ascot. Although eventually beaten over 40 lengths into third by Lord Of The River there, he is capable of much better and is well worth this chance to prove so. Laredo looked set for a profitable campaign when successful on his chase bow at Sandown in November but has made things difficult for himself with some sloppy jumping and nearly contrived to throw a good opportunity away at Wincanton last Thursday. That was his first race since December and he may find this next start coming too soon. Echo's Of Dawn ran his best race over fences when third to Sanker Count at Catterick last time but nevertheless has plenty to find with the two principles here.

3.40 SANNACOTT MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,453: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

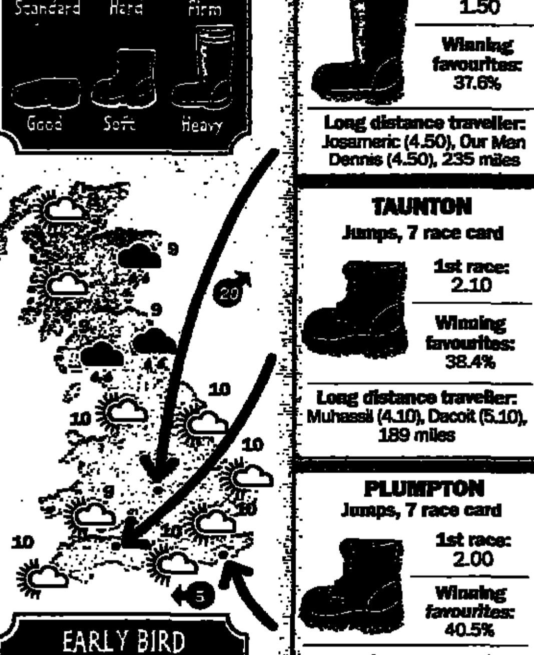
401 U-00 CASHABAN 14 (M Smith) J Smith 6-11-5 .... R Widger (5) 29
402 0 CONORA 25 (J Russell) D O'Neill 6-11-5 .... Michael Brennan —
403 -40360 GO-ONMYSON 75 (Imperial Group) I Williams 6-11-5 .... R Wakley 80
404 060F- KILARNEY KING 289 (F Myles) K Bell 6-11-5 .... M Ahern —
405 65 3P3 LONGSTONE LAD 11 (G Edwards) G Edwards 7-11-5 .... M A Fitzgerald 57
406 30 TWINNINGS GROVE 31 (Mrs S Nelson) T George 6-11-0 .... R Thornton —
407 BATSWING 191F (R Withers) E Milman 4-10-10 .... D Salter —
408 40 CAGE AUX FOLLES 10 (Mrs J Kelly) Nick Williams 4-10-10 .... A Dobbin 44
409 RAID 303F (Mrs A Berkley) P Nicholls 4-10-10 .... J Tizzard —
410 50 MARQUANTE 10 (Mrs J Egan) D Wintle 4-10-5 .... J Mogford (7) 34

BETTING: 5-4 Raid, 5-1 Longstone Lad, 11-2 Cage Aux Folles, 10-1 Batswing, 12-1 Go-Onmyson, 20-1 others.

1998: FITZMAURICE 6-11-5 S McNeill (5-4 fav) C Brooks 11 ran

FORM ANALYSIS RAID looks the most interesting of these and can overcome a 303-day absence from the racecourse. In the interim he has joined Paul Nicholls from Irish handler Michael Grassick, but it is the form he showed for the latter in winning a 1½-mile maiden on the last of four Flat outings that marks him down as the one to beat today. Longstone Lad (third to Flagship Therese at Taunton), Cage Aux Folles (debut fourth to Ilahabad at Taunton) and Go-Onmyson (Worcester third to Siren Song in November) have similar form-book claims and it is likely that the winner will come from these three should the selection fail to live up to expectations.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Stratford: 3.20 Edmond. Taunton: 4.10 Francesca's Folly. 4.40 Kaloore



4.10 MARCH SELLING HURDLE (£1,481: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

501 61P-04 MISTER WOODSTICK 68 (F) (D & C Clapham) J Spearing 6-11-9 .... R Thornton 60
502 F50-31 TRUE VISION 6 (D,S) (R Headdich) M Pipe 5-11-4 .... A P McCoy 63
503 0-0400 MUHASSIL 24 (R Walpole) K Morgan 6-11-2 .... A Dobbin 64
504 00F WICKED GAME 6 (Miss E Jones) B Llewellyn 5-11-2 .... Michael Brennan —
505 500053 ALLEGIANCE 46 (V,D,G) (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 4-11-1 .... D Matthews 51
506 0-0 WILLET WITCH 76 (D Stephens) Miss V Stephens 5-10-11 .... Miss V Stephens —
507 CANDY TWIST 112F (Countess of Tyrone) Lord Tyrone 4-10-3 .... R Widger (5) —
508 FRANCESCA'S FOLLY 68F (B) (Brewers Arms) C Popham 4-10-3 .... O McPhail (5) —

BETTING: 8-13 True Vision, 4-1 Allegiance, 13-2 Muhassil, 8-1 Mister Woodstick, 25-1 others.

1998: MERAWANG 5-11-2 T J Murphy (7-4 fav) P Nicholls 9 ran

FORM ANALYSIS TRUE VISION stands out as the one to beat but is by no means a good thing and efforts to build a Cheltenham betting bank should be concentrated elsewhere. The selection pulled too hard for her own good when third in a claimer last month and, though settling better when winning a selling handicap at Exeter last Tuesday, she had her task simplified when two challenging rivals departed three out. Allegiance won a poor seller in August but has failed to repeat the form subsequently and gurgled when third to Fayez last time. Mister Woodstick reportedly returned lame on his reappearance and enters calculations on his subsequent fourth to Park Royal at Lingfield.

4.40 SOMERSET HUNTERS CHASE (£2,038: 3m) (8 runners)

601 P6-2P2 HILLHEAD 29P (F) (Mrs J Barran) Mrs J Galpin 10-12-7 .... Mr J Barnes (7) —
602 12P-31 CERTAIN ANGLE 37P (CD,F,G,S) Ms Kay Rees 10-12-0 .... Miss P Curling [illegible]
603 125-33 JUST BEN 11 (D,G,S) (R Persey) K Cumings 11-12-0 .... Miss J Cumings (7) 84
604 32123 KALOORE 30P (B,BF,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Alford) P Scholfield 10-12-0 .... Mr P Scholfield (3) —
605 .0/P-3 MUNTAFI 16P (S) (S Lewis) S Lewis 8-12-0 .... Mr C R Weaver (7) —
606 /245-U CABBERY ROSE 11 (D,F,S) P Southcombe 11-11-9 .... Miss W Southcombe (7) 57
607 23PP- DUCHESS OF TUBBER 765P (D,F,S) (R Lowe) R Lowe 11-11-9 .... Miss S Young (7) —
608 432-U3 GYPSY LUCK 37P (BF,D,F,S) (J Cann) O Bush 10-11-9 .... Miss A Bush (7) —

BETTING: 2-1 Certain Angle, 9-2 Just Ben, Gypsy Luck, 13-2 Hillhead, Kaloore, 10-1 Muntafi, 12-1 others.

1998: KING TORUS 8-12-12 Ms J Jukes (1-2 fav) V Dartnall 5 ran

FORM ANALYSIS JUST BEN put behind him a poor third between the flags with a much better effort to occupy the same placing, beaten under two lengths by Apple John, in a hunter chase over track and trip earlier this month. A four-times winner in point-to-points, he may now open his account under Rules. Certain Angle, formerly a fair handicap chaser with Philip Hobbs, showed that he retains a reasonable measure of ability when winning a ladies open for today's rider at North Cornwall in February.

5.10 WIDCOMBE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£2,661: 2m 1f) (9 runners)

1 651 DACOIT 16 (F) (D & M Cased Hole) K Morgan 5-12-0 .... A Dobbin 56
2 5-1 WILD HADEER 13 (S) (Mrs D Upson) J Upson 5-11-12 .... B Grattan (3) [illegible]
3 6260 LAFFAH 18 (R Green (Fine Paintings)) M Pipe 4-11-5 .... A P McCoy 66
4 000212 PABLO'S JET 76 (C,S) (Wyvern Racing) P Farrell 6-11-0 .... R Widger (5) 76
5 P-004 JALB 12F (Family & Friends) P Murphy 5-10-10 .... R Farrant 63
6 F6P-4 MR LEROI 19 (R Gadd) Mrs A Perrett 6-10-8 .... R Thornton 55
7 P00 MY LOST LOVE 20 (A Hollingsworth) A Hollingsworth 4-10-5 .... Mr C R Weaver (7) —
8 0P0F FRAME OF MIND 19 (B) (Birmingham Bloodstock) F Jordan 4-10-0 .... S Durack 30
9 00R00 DANKATE 28 (M James) J Bradley 5-10-0 .... S Wynne —

BETTING: 9-4 Dacoit, 4-1 Wild Hadeer, Laffah, 5-1 Pablo's Jet, 7-1 Jalb, 10-1 Mr Leroi, 20-1 others.

1998: DRAGON KING 6-10-12 B Fenton (7-1) C Barwell 13 ran

FORM ANALYSIS The ex-John Gosden-trained Laffah appeared to be set plenty to do when finishing in mid-division at Huntingdon on his handicap bow but is looking expensive at the 23,000gns paid for him at Newmarket's July Sales. DACOIT may prove a better option. Racing with his tongue tied down, he produced a strong finish to overhaul Curriculus at Musselburgh last time. Wild Hadeer, who stayed on strongly to beat Willyelkra at Catterick, is similarly unexposed, while Mr Leroi looked as if the race would do him good when fourth to Misconduct at Folkestone on his debut for Amanda Perrett.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
M Pipe	40	204	19.6	R Widger	5	22	22.7
P Bowen	4	22	18.2	J Tizzard	3	15	20.0
Mrs S Williams	4	25	16.0	A McCoy	27	139	19.4
P Murphy	3	23	13.0	G Bradley	3	23	13.0

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Sandown Park

Going: soft

1.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Gale Toi (Major O Ellwood, 13-8 fav); 2, Kibreet (15-8); 3, Desert Calm (16-1). 7 ran. NR: Extra Stout. 27l, 3l. Miss C Elliott. Tote: £2.90; £1.60, £1.60. DF: £2.90. CSF: £4.52.

2.25 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Province (Major O Ellwood, 9-4 fav); 2, Studio Thirty (7-1); 3, Flat Top (13-2). 8 ran. NR: Bungee Jumper. 1¼l, 6l. C Mann. Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £7.80. CSF: £16.18. Tricast: £79.11.

2.55 (2m ch) 1, Native Charm (J A McCarthy, evens fav); 2, Ballad Minstrel (13-8); 3, Clifton Beat (13-2). 4 ran. 12l, 7l. C Morlock. Tote: £2.00. DF: £1.70. CSF: £2.82.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Lordberniebouffant (P Hide, 8-1); 2, Storm Of Gold (16-1); 3, Count Campioni (5-1). Back On The Lash 4-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Guilder. 1½l, 7l. J Gifford. Tote: £8.40; £1.80, £3.50, £2.10. DF: £67.90. CSF: £116.12. Tricast: £644.52.

4.05 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Regency Rake (A Maguire, 7-1); 2, Coulthard (7-1); 3, Dr Jazz (2-1 fav). 9 ran. NR: Road Racer, Sir Talbot, Time For Action. Sh hd, 1½l. A Moore. Tote: £7.10; £1.80, £2.40, £1.40. DF: £35.30. Trifecta: £253.00. CSF: £51.24. Tricast: £123.18.

4.40 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Native Player (P Hide, 9-2); 2, Sharp Command (11-2); 3, Mountain Path (9-4 fav). 9 ran. Hd, 16l. R Rowe. Tote: £6.30; £1.90, £1.90, £1.30. DF: £18.10. CSF: £27.75. Tricast: £63.85.

5.15 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Dusk Duel (M A Fitzgerald, 4-5 fav); 2, Rosco (14-1); 3, King Wizard (9-1). 16 ran. NR: River Gold, Specs. 3½l, 5l. N Henderson. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £2.70, £3.20. DF: £10.60. CSF: £14.60.

Jackpot: £12,209.10.
Placepot: £24.60 Quadpot: £17.40

Ayr

Going: soft

1.45 1, Major Bellaby (2-1 jt-fav); 2, Slim Prior (100-1); 3, Happy Days (33-1). Cinder Hills 2-1 jt-fav. 6 ran.

2.15 1, Mike Stan (8-11 fav); 2, Cross The Rubicon (20-1); 3, Adventurus (11-1). 7 ran. NR: Inver Red, Strong Mission.

2.45 1, Valigan (5-2 fav); 2, Thanks Keith (11-4); 3, Polar King (4-1). 6 ran.

3.20 1, Bright Destiny (5-2); 2, Better Times Ahead (7-4). Major Bell 6-4 fav. 3 ran.

3.55 1, Gospel Song (11-2); 2, Exalted (13-2); 3, Executive Design (8-1). Mary's Feelings 3-1 fav. 8 ran.

4.30 1, Fils De Cresson (5-1); 2, Bangabunny (3-1 fav); 3, Montrave (4-1). 6 ran. NR: Clady Boy, Corston Joker.

5.05 1, Grouse Hall (9-2); 2, Lord Sandrovitch (6-4 fav); 3, Just Tom (7-2). 5 ran. NR: Select Equiname.

Chepstow

Going: soft, heavy in places

1.00 1, Just Nip (9-4 fav); 2, Cottstown Boy (11-2); 3, Dangerous Guest (6-1). 7 ran.

1.30 1, Ottowa (11-2); 2, See Enough (7-1); 3, Sail By The Stars (8-11 fav). 5 ran. NR: Belmont King.

2.00 1, Bacchanal (5-4 jt-fav); 2, Davoski (5-4 jt-fav); 3, Lawahik (6-1). 4 ran. NR: Alhosaam.

2.30 1, In The Blood (6-4 fav); 2, Blue Charm (4-1); 3, Storm Damage (3-1). 5 ran.

3.05 1, Garolsa (4-11 fav); 2, Cara Cane (16-1); 3, Gone Ballistic (12-1). 9 ran.

3.40 1, Irbee (8-13 fav); 2, Native Fling (7-2); 3, Romancer (9-2). 5 ran.

4.15 1, Rajati (9-2); 2, Tui (100-30); 3, Dmowski (100-30). Sadler's Secret 11-4 fav. 8 ran.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.40 1, Statistician (13-2); 2, Garnock Valley (9-2 fav); 3, Live Project (9-1). 12 ran.

2.10 1, Gevity (4-1); 2, Rouge (6-4 fav); 3, Forty Forte (6-1). 10 ran.

2.40 1, Pipe Song (14-1); 2, Ocker (5-1); 3, Night Flight (25-1). Magic Rainbow 5-2 fav. 13 ran.

3.15 1, Yakareem (14-1); 2, Wait-A-Minute (11-10 fav); 3, China Castle (7-2). 7 ran.

3.50 1, Mutabari (9-2); 2, Kass Alhawa (5-1); 3, Step On Degas (16-1). Approachable 3-1 fav. 12 ran.

4.25 1, Captain Scott (15-2); 2, Welville (15-2); 3, Nomore Mr Niceguy (5-1 fav). 13 ran.

5.00 1, Avondale Girl (evens fav); 2, Keen Hands (10-1); 3, Legal Venture (12-1). 13 ran.

5.30 1, Fer Cry (9-4); 2, Sudest (11-2); 3, Dargo (5-4 fav). 8 ran.

JUMPS LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Stgs than win	Level stakes
M Pipe	124	73	74	3	-108.53
Mrs M Reveley	83	61	56	4	-8.75
P Nicholls	74	64	26	2	-14.62
P Hobbs	71	64	43	2	-3.66
N Henderson	59	43	32	2	+4.70
D Nicholson	59	53	51	3	-57.28
Miss V Williams	57	30	29	9	+0.45

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing mounts	Level stakes
A P McCoy	134	78	59	6	-116.61
R Johnson	103	103	98	5	-91.56
M A Fitzgerald	100	53	62	0	+17.54
N Williamson	95	60	58	12	-3.60
R Dunwoody	88	58	45	9	-39.91
A Maguire	64	44	50	1	-76.06
T J Murphy	59	39	32	3	+165.38

PLUMPTON

ROB WRIGHT
2.00 Johnston's Art. 2.30 Kingdom Of Shades. 3.00 Whirlawhile. 3.30 Tissue Of Lies. 4.00 Regal Aura. 4.30 Westerlands Queen. 5.00 Fountain Bid.
Carl Evans: 4.30 Westerlands Queen.

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES — SIS

2.00 WIVELSFIELD 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES HURDLE (£2,285: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1 13P0 HOLBORN HILL 37 (S) C Mann 7-11-5 .... J Magee 90
2 31-P GULLIBLE GUY 18 (F) Miss V Williams 7-10-12 .... S Kelly (5) —
3 0 I AIN'T MISBEHAVIN 14 Miss Z Davison 7-10-12 .... Leesa Long 31
4 -133 JOHNSTON'S ART 26 (BF,S) R Buckler 6-10-12 .... B Powell [illegible]
5 PP-P JUST A BEAU 14 Miss A N-Smith 8-10-12 .... Edgar Byrne (7) —
6 0/00 PIRATE MINSTREL 108 Miss I Foustok 7-10-12 .... W Marston —
7 1/P- TIME HE WENT 353 (F) G Wareham 10-10-12 .... L Aspell —
8 5543 PEASEDOWN TOFANA 28 R Alner 6-10-7 .... A Thornton 67

7-4 Holborn Hill, 2-1 Johnston's Art, 3-1 Gullible Guy, 7-1 Peasedown Tofana, 16-1 I Ain't Misbehavin, 20-1 Just A Beau, 25-1 others.

2.30 PLUMPTON NOVICES CHASE (£2,770: 2m 5f) (4)

1 3-P1 DEEP REFRAIN 155 (G,S) R Phillips 9-11-10 .... A Thornton 84
2 3122 KINGDOM OF SHADES 47 (S) Miss V Williams 9-11-10 .... R Dunwoody [illegible]
3 5455 JOKER JACK 24 (F,S) R Dean 14-11-3 .... Mr N Fehily (7) 64
4 P242 KELLY MAC 27 (F,G,S) D O'Brien 9-11-3 .... W Marston 118

8-13 Kingdom Of Shades, 2-1 Kelly Mac, 8-1 Deep Refrain, 50-1 Joker Jack.

3.00 WEATHERBYS IT SERVICES NOVICES HURDLE (£2,250: 2m 1f) (5)

1 0-0 HERRINGSBY 25 R Buckler 5-11-2 .... B Powell —
2 P MOON RIVER 11 Miss K Marks 5-11-2 .... V Slattery —
3 22-2 WHIRLAWHILE 282 (BF) Miss V Williams 5-11-2 .... S Kelly (5) [illegible]
4 0 CASTLE HILL 26 D O'Brien 4-10-8 .... M Batchelor (5) —
5 0 IN GOOD ORDER 7 G L Moore 4-10-3 .... P Hide 34

1-10 Whirlawhile, 14-1 Herringsby, 16-1 Castle Hill, 20-1 In Good Order, 25-1 Moon River.

3.30 UCKFIELD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,215: 2m 1f) (7)

1 P652 TISSUE OF LIES 7 (CD,G) J Akehurst 6-12-0 .... R Dunwoody [illegible]
2 15/2 SURANOM 96 (F) Mrs D Haine 7-11-6 .... J F Titley 98
3 1153 DOCTOR BRAVIOUS 14 (B,CD,S) J Poulton 6-11-2 .... J Magee 94
4 2014 ILLUMINATE 26 (S) D O'Brien 6-10-12 .... M Batchelor (5) 88
5 1350 MULTI FRANCHISE 53 (CD,S) Mrs L Jewell 6-10-9 .... B Powell 81
6 /PP- RUN BAVARD 373P Mrs Townsley 11-10-0 .... Miss Townsley (7) —
7 3P4B SUMMER FLOWER 6 (D,F,S) Miss Z Davison 9-10-0 .... D O'Sullivan (7) 96

5-2 Illuminate, 3-1 Tissue Of Lies, 4-1 Suranom, Doctor Bravious, 8-1 others

4.00 BOLNEY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,754: 2m 5f) (5)

1 1326 SCAVO 24 (CD,S) D O'Brien 8-11-12 .... P Hide 110
2 3-P1 REGAL AURA 42 (CD,F,G,S) D O'Brien 9-11-2 .... W Marston 110
3 P3R6 FULL OF BOUNCE 47 (D,S) R Hodges 8-10-0 .... P Holley 75
4 -FP5 SCOBIE GIRL 70 (V,CD,S) J Mullins 9-10-0 .... A Bates (3) [illegible]
5 60-F NO MATTER 13 R Rowe 8-10-0 .... L Aspell —

6-4 Regal Aura, 7-4 Scavo, 5-1 Full Of Bounce, No Matter, 16-1 Scobie Girl

4.30 CLAPPER HUNTERS CHASE (£1,138: 3m 1f) (5)

1 -FU1 MY BEST MAN 16P (F,G,S) Mrs T Hill 12-12-0 .... Mrs T Hill (7) 59
2 /P-P OISIN DUBH 58P K Tork 10-12-0 .... Major G Wheeler (7) —
3 645- PINOCCIO 294 (F) D O'Brien 12-12-0 .... Mr N Fehily (3) 27
4 1-FU SPRINGFARM RATH 9 (S) G Brown 8-12-0 .... Mr T Gibney (3) —
5 4-44 WESTERLANDS QUEEN 9 H Manners 10-11-9 .... Mr C Jones (3) [illegible]

8-13 My Best Man, 3-1 Westerlands Queen, 11-2 Pinoccio, 12-1 others.

5.00 RAY GOLDSTEIN HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,233: 2m 4f) (5)

1 2424 FOUNTAIN BID 7 (G) R Dean 7-11-13 .... Mr N Fehily (7) 61
2 0332 AUGUST TWELFTH 28 (CD,G,S) D O'Brien 11-11-4 .... M Batchelor (5) 61
3 2104 FIGHTING TIMES 13 (F,S) Miss K Marks 7-11-2 .... V Slattery 63
4 6-51 BLAZE OF OAK 11 (S) P Eccles 8-10-13 .... Miss V Roberts (7) [illegible]
5 6454 BOW BELLS 12 J Joseph 4-10-0 .... J Goldstein (3) 77

9-4 Blaze Of Oak, 5-2 Fountain Bid, 11-4 August Twelfth, 13-2 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss V Williams, 5 winners from 15 runners, 33.3%; C Mann, 5 from 24, 20.8%; R Buckler, 6 from 29, 20.7%; R Hodges, 10 from 51, 19.6%; R Alner, 9 from 60, 15.0%; Mrs D Haine, 3 from 21, 14.3%

JOCKEYS: J Titley, 6 winners from 14 rides, 42.9%; R Dunwoody, 7 from 37, 18.9%; D O'Sullivan, 11 from 71, 15.5%; W Marston, 8 from 54, 14.8%; M Batchelor, 9 from 62, 14.5%; B Powell, 9 from 64, 14.1%

STRATFORD

ROB WRIGHT
1.50 Caldamus. 2.20 Jocks Cross. 2.50 Rusk. 3.20 Monicasman. 3.50 The Brewmaster. 4.20 Tombola. 4.50 Liniyan.
Carl Evans: 4.20 Tombola.

GOING: HEAVY — SIS

1.50 START FESTIVAL WEEK AT STRATFORD NOVICES HURDLE (£3,961: 2m 6f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 -351 CALDAMUS 27 (G) Mrs M Jones 7-11-8 .... Mr R Forristal (5)
2 0UP6 ASIDE THE SEA 14 R Dickin 7-11-2 .... X Aizpuru (3)
3 2044 BALLYNABRAGGET 21 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2 .... C Llewellyn
4 34/0 BROTHER NERO 11 A Hobbs 7-11-2 .... Guy Lewis (3)
5 6000 EVENKEEL 93 D Wintle 7-11-2 .... R Bellamy
6 28P5 LETTYFAK 41 (B) I Williams 5-11-2 .... G Tormey
7 6-00 YER 'UMBLE 20 J K Cresswell 8-11-2 .... R Farrant
8 6020 ALIMERJAM 13 (V) Mrs N Macauley 5-10-11 .... E Husband
9 0353 HYDEMILLA 8 Mrs T Pitman 9-10-11 .... N Mulholland (7)

6-4 Caldamus, 7-2 Alimerjam, 4-1 Ballynabragget, 11-2 Lettyfak, 12-1 Hydemilla, 16-1 Aside The Sea, 25-1 Evenkeel, Yer 'umble, Brother Nero.

2.20 RACECOURSE VIDEO SERVICES NOVICES CHASE (£4,524: 2m 4f) (3)

1 -211 JOCKS CROSS 21 (D,F,G,S) Miss V Williams 8-11-12 .... N Williamson
2 -UPP ANNS DISPLAY 23P (S) Mrs A Johnson 8-11-2 .... J R Kavanagh
3 3PP- CHERRY ORCHID 291 J R Hughes 12-11-2 .... Mr P Hardy

1-14 Jocks Cross, 8-1 Cherry Orchid, 33-1 Anns Display.

2.50 FOXHUNTER AT SNITTERFIELD SELLING HURDLE (£2,843: 2m 3f) (9)

1 P32F RUSK 20 (BF,S) J Allen 6-11-8 .... X Aizpuru (3)
2 2001 SHARBADARID 20 (S) J K Price 5-11-8 .... D J Burchell
3 53P6 BALMORAL PRINCESS 12 (D,F,S) D McCain 6-11-3 .... A C Coyle (5)
4 040 BIG BANG 141 Miss C Caroe 5-11-2 .... C Webb
5 00PU BIT OF KUWAIT 2 G McCourt 6-11-2 .... H Oliver (5)
6 5406 FAIR FINNISH 72 W Clay 5-11-2 .... G Tormey
7 03 STAMFORD HILL 9 M Pipe 4-10-7 .... R Johnson
8 3323 BERMUDA TRIANGLE 28 M Haynes 4-10-2 .... M Connolly (7)
9 KAREFREE KATIE 33F J Given 4-10-2 .... Gary Lyons

11-4 Bermuda Triangle, 3-1 Stamford Hill, 7-2 Rusk, 4-1 Sharbadarid, 11-2 Balmoral Princess, 33-1 Big Bang, Bit Of Kuwait, Fair Finnish, Karefree Katie.

3.20 TOTE CHASE (£6,947: 3m) (4)

1 P364 INDIAN TRACKER 51 (S) R Lee 9-12-0 .... C Maude
2 1133 EDMOND 23 (B,D,S) H Daly 7-11-0 .... R Johnson
3 5231 ROUNDWOOD 15 (D,G,S) D Hughes (Ire) 10-10-7 .... G Cotter
4 21F1 MONICASMAN 24 (D,F,G,S) G McCourt 9-10-3 .... E Husband

13-8 Roundwood, 2-1 Monicasman, 9-4 Edmond, 8-1 Indian Tracker.

3.50 RACING CHANNEL 'THIRD DEGREE' HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,930: 2m 110yd) (3)

1 2532 WESLEY'S LAD 24 (S) D Burchell 5-11-10 .... D J Burchell
2 1310 THE BREWMASTER 19 (D,S) I Williams 7-10-12 .... G Tormey
3 1331 MARIGLIANO 30 (D,G,S) K Morgan 6-10-9 .... A S Smith

11-10 Marigliano, 2-1 The Brewmaster, 11-4 Wesley's Lad.

4.20 CREDIT CALL HUNTERS CHASE (£2,372: 3m) (15)

1 -P21 TOMCAPPAGH 19 (D,G,S) Mrs S Wall 8-12-6 .... Mr C Gordon (7)
2 5UPF CANISTER CASTLE 5 (F) F Matthews 11-12-3 .... Mr D Sherlock (7)
3 3-F6 FURIOUS AVENGER 37P B Lay 10-12-3 .... Mr L Lay (3)
4 2PP- JOLLY JACK 288P (D,S) S Lewis 8-12-3 .... Mr R Burton (5)
5 RRP- KATBALLOU 335P (B) P Cranmer 10-12-3 .... Mr P Cranmer (7)
6 -12F KING OF CLARE 17 (D,S) D Murphy 7-12-3 .... Mr A Martin (7)
7 5P1/ MR PINBALL 674P (B) Mrs D Cowley 12-12-3 .... Mr P Cowley (7)
8 /55- RIDWAN 331P (S) Mrs S Sleight 12-12-3 .... Mr S Morris (7)
9 PP-F SNOWSHILL SHAKER 10 (G) A Knight 10-12-3 .... Mr H Hankey (7)
10 /PRP SOLAR WARRIOR 10 S Kitching 9-12-3 .... Mr N Kent (7)
11 1-11 TOMBOLA 16P (D,G,S) Mrs C Bailey 8-12-3 .... Mr B Pollock
12 1P-P TWILIGHT TOM 16P (D,F,S) L Williams 10-12-3 .... Mr A Price (7)
13 F-45 FOUNTAIN OF FIRE 16P (S) J T-Rolph 11-11-12 .... Mr M Bluck (7)
14 U6-3 REGAL PURSUIT 28 (B) Mrs J Fitzgerald 8-11-12 .... Mr A Wintle (3)
15 P4-P THORNHILL 22P F Matthews 9-11-12 .... Mr A Bateman (7)

5-4 Tombola, 11-4 Tomcappagh, 4-1 King Of Clare, 8-1 others.

4.50 RACING CHANNEL ENGLAND/IRELAND MAIDEN OPEN NH FLAT (£2,306: 2m 110yd) (8)

1 JIMMY THE ONE A Hobbs 5-11-8 .... J Osborne
2 P JOSAMERIC 63 D Duggan 5-11-8 .... R Johnson
3 OUR MAN DENNIS D Duggan 5-11-8 .... N Williamson
4 ROYAL YANKEE D Nicholson 5-11-8 .... D J Casey
5 4 S AND O P 89 M Pipe 5-11-8 .... C Maude
6 6 TOM COBELER 18 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-8 .... C Llewellyn
7 0 BARRETTSTOWN 18 (BF) M Pipe 4-11-0 .... P Carberry
8 2 LINIYAN 39 Miss V Williams 4-11-0 .... R Walsh

8-11 Liniyan, 5-1 Tom Cobbler, 6-1 S And O P, Barrettstown, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 15 winners from 48 runners, 31.3%; Miss V Williams, 5 from 18, 27.8%; M Pipe, 29 from 111, 26.1%; A Hobbs, 3 from 12, 25.0%; N Twiston-Davies, 6 from 42, 14.3%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: R Johnson, 23 winners from 118 rides, 19.5%; R Farrant, 7 from 39, 17.9%; C Maude, 7 from 40, 17.5%; N Williamson, 12 from 75, 16.0%; G Tormey, 3 from 27, 11.1%. Only qualifiers.

RACING: HENDERSON MAY USE BLINKERS TO SHARPEN FRENCH IMPORT

Makounji gets Arkle go-ahead

By Chris McGrath

IN BLESSING the Cotswolds with a charming spring day of birdsong and sunshine, the gods yesterday offered their favours with a sense of equity that punters would appreciate once the Cheltenham Festival gets underway tomorrow.

For the rain-softened ground, potentially such an influential factor, now seems likely to dry out sufficiently to establish a fairly level playing field on that taxing climb to the post.

Nicky Henderson walked the course at lunchtime and decided that the going will nonetheless be soft enough tomorrow for Makounji to drop back to two miles for the Guinness Arkle Trophy. Her alternative was the Cathcart Chase, over an additional five furlongs on Thursday.

At the same time, the trainer is insuring against her being outpaced in the frantic early stages. "There is a distinct possibility she will wear blinkers," he said. "My worry going for the shorter race was that they might just get her at it early on. When she ran against Potentate and Kurakka at Newbury, in particular, she looked a bit lost over the first two or three fences. I hope blinkers might make her a bit sharper."

Makounji already has an edge in weight allowances for both age and gender, but Henderson, who has schooled the French import in blinkers, might just have hit upon the sort of flourish that has already raised the game of no less than 18 Festival winners.

Only one of those successes, Barna Boy in the 1997 County Hurdle, has been gained since 1993, but Henderson has been in resurgent form all season. Three more winners on Saturday took his score to 59, and his Festival team embraces not only the high profile of Makounji and Katarino, favourite for the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle, but comparable strength in depth in the handicaps, notably with the Queen Mother's Easter Ross in the Coral Cup.

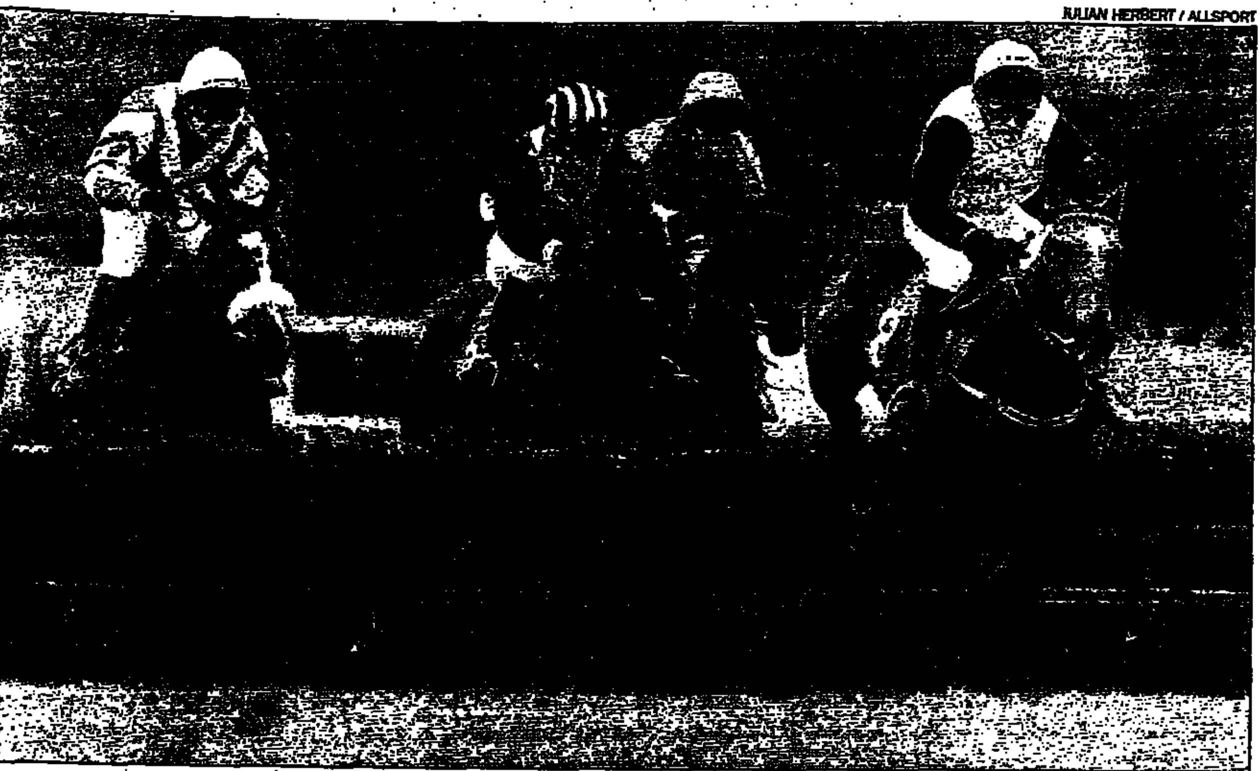
"It's a nerve-wracking time, all right," he said. "But they've all finished their work now, the last ones this morning, and let's hope for a great week. The course is in first-class condition. There's a lot of moisture underneath and it will ride pretty dead on the first day, but four dry days must make it nearly good ground."

Likewise emboldened by his form for the Festival is Adrian Maguire. Cheltenham has been the focus of atrocious misfortune for the jockey in recent seasons, but on Saturday he offered timely confirmation of his renewed zest, hauling Regency Rake home by a nostril in a thrilling Sunderlands Imperial Cup at Sandown. Maguire's pugnacious style, loose of rein and compact of body, is a miracle of balance at the best of times, but here he even managed to prevail despite losing his right iron after the last.

Regency Rake, trained by Arthur Moore, will doubtless be treated as a positive augur not only for Maguire but also for the Irish in general.

In other Festival news yesterday it emerged that Direct Route will be given the chance to erase the memory of a poor run at Ascot last month in Wednesday's Queen Mother Champion Chase. Howard Johnson's stable star broke a blood vessel when finishing fourth to Teeton Mill in the Mitsubishi Shogun Chase. "He's coming back to himself a bit now," the trainer said.

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Regency Rake, left, ridden by Maguire, pursue Coulthard, right, on the way to winning the Imperial Cup at Sandown

RICHARD EVANS: Nap: Suranom (3.30 Plumpton)

SNOOKER

China king Higgins remains world No 1

From Phil Yates in Shanghai

JOHN HIGGINS celebrated the 15th tournament success of his career in Shanghai last night in the inaugural China International.

Higgins won the final 9-3 against Billy Snaddon, the world No 32, who handed Stephen Hendry a surprising 6-2 defeat in the semi-finals. The combination of those two results guarantees that Higgins retains the world No 1 spot next season.

"It's great news," Higgins said. "I wouldn't have fancied losing top spot anyway, with the lead I've got, but now I can travel down to the British Open next month with one less thing to worry about."

It was not a classic final. Snaddon, running on empty after the most productive but also most draining week of his career, made too many unforced errors to place Higgins under any real pressure.

He trailed 6-2 after the first session and, although the opening two frames of the closing session were shared, Higgins swiftly made breaks of 124 and 42 to secure his first title victory in Asia.

Higgins collected £42,000 to take his tournament earnings for the season to £399,925. Snaddon secured a sum of £21,000, almost double his highest purse from a single event since he turned professional in 1991.

EQUESTRIANISM

Beerbaum takes short cut to memorable win

From Jenny MacArthur in Paris

LUDGER BEERBAUM, of Germany, the European showjumping champion, gave the packed Palais d'Omnisports a thrilling display of jumping here yesterday when he and Priamos, the horse on which he gained a team gold medal at the world championships last year, won the World Cup qualifier by 3.67sec.

Beerbaum, the 1992 Olympic champion, took an improbable looking short cut to fence four, which brought him home comfortably ahead of Willi Melliger, of Switzerland, on Calvaro. Xavier Caumont, of France, gave the home crowd a measure of consolation when he took third place on Baladine du Mesnil, his 1997 Seville winner.

John Whitaker, the only Briton to reach the 11-horse jump-off, incurred four faults at the second fence on Virtual Village Heyman, who was having his first important competition of the year, and finished in eighth place. But the performance has lifted Whitaker to fifth in the rankings for the European League of the World Cup and secured his place in the final in Gothenburg next month.

"Heyman's a little rusty after the winter but I'm very pleased with him and we've done what we set out to do," Whitaker said. He has now qualified for every final since the event began in 1979.

Whitaker's younger brother, Michael, who opted to ride Virtual Village Ashley yesterday after Hilton succumbed to an inexplicable loss of form, failed to reach the jump-off after a mistake in the opening round. Coming in too close to the first part of the double at fence five, an oxer, he paid the penalty with four faults. But he is still in sixth place in the rankings after his third places at Millstreet and Olympia.

Geoff Billington was the most frustrated of the three Britons. He walked around Serge Houtmann's big, 13-fence course before deciding that it was well suited to It's Otto and duly produced a clear round — only to find he had incurred half a time fault for exceeding the 74 seconds allowed over the course.

The jump-off course, which included a flat-out gallop across the arena to the last of the six fences, had been a tame affair until Beerbaum entered the arena. But the German's daring short cut, which was accompanied by roars of approval from the crowd, set a new standard for the five who followed. Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, the world champion and holder of the World Cup, took up the challenge on Gandini Baloubet du Rouet and looked to have the event there for the taking after a lightning fast round — until he just clipped the last fence.

Jones advertises her talents with four-timer

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

PIP JONES, Britain's champion woman rider, put a firm grasp on this year's title on Saturday when partnering four winners at the **Brecon & Talybont** fixture.

Fearless and blessed with confidence to match at present, Jones is in demand in this sport, but has strangely been overlooked for rides at this week's Cheltenham Festival.

"Nobody wants me," she said yesterday, while driving to the Carmarthenshire meeting for another five rides. "Perhaps if I'd managed a six-timer the phone would have rung."

Jones won the hunt race on Kerry Soldier Blue (1-5), the confined on Veryvel (4-5), the ladies' open on Warren Boy (4-7) and a division of the maiden on Lady Buckland (11-10). Her last ride of the day, in the twelth race, ended in a fall from Glenville Breeze, but Jones reported herself "sore but okay".

Her successes took her score for this season to 12, and her career total between the flags to 160.

Alison Dare added to her total (267 career wins) when Split Second (4-6) just beat All Weather at the **Avon Vale**.

Also at this meeting, Mark Rimell warmed up for his ride on Varykinov in Thursday's Foxhunter Chase when partnering Ginny Eliott's Gildrom (4-5) into second place in the 19-runner restricted race. The winner, the Barry Kendellan-ridden Royal Surprise, started at 20-1 with the bookies, but paid £103 on the tote. "It was his day," said Lambourn trainer John Porter of his 12-year-old, who was doubling his winning score. "He's been placed in good races in the past."

Clive Storey rode a double at the **Cumberland Farmers'** meeting on Blyth Brook (7-2) and Tinafoil (7-4), but had to be content with third in the men's open on favourite Faster Ron as Pablowmore (4-1) took first spot.

Hirondelles go clear of rivals

NETBALL

AN excellent display of shooting by the England international, Lyn Carpenter, and the England Under-19 player, Louise Moore, helped Hirondelles move clear at the top of the English National Clubs' League table when they beat Tongham 55-43 yesterday (Cathy Harris writes).

After New Cambell suffered a surprise 53-48 defeat against Wyvern, the Surrey club moved clear of champions Linden whose game against Oakwood was postponed because an umpire was unavailable.

Solid in defence, Hirondelles turned in a fine team performance to sustain their title push. But for New Cambell, who are missing Pat Sutherland through pregnancy and Wendy Hale with an Achilles' heel injury, their prospects appear bleak.

Linden player-coach Colette Thomson said the postponement of her team's fixture was "a blessing in disguise" as players Lisa Driver, Lisa Topliss, Sarah Olden and Olivia Murphy were all missing. She said it would probably be rearranged for the end of April.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

BOWLS

BOXING

CRICKET

Second Test match

New Zealand v South Africa

Asian Test championship

Sri Lanka v Pakistan

CYCLING

Road races

Time trials

EQUESTRIANISM

GOLF

ICE HOCKEY

MOTOR RALLYING

ROWING

SCHOOLS SPORT

SNOOKER

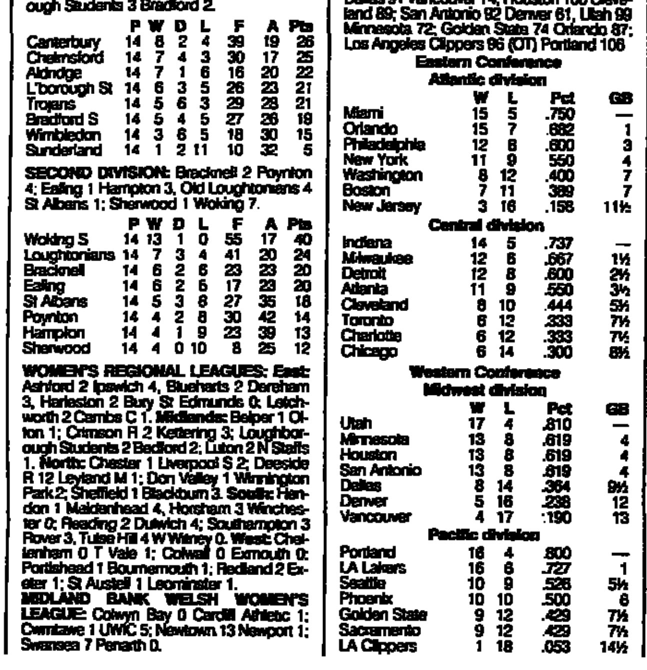
SQUASH

TABLE TENNIS

TENNIS

HOCKEY

BASKETBALL



A dynamic Peter Gade Christensen demonstrates the athleticism that helped take him to victory in the final of the All-England badminton championships yesterday

ATHLETICS

Track and field

Cross country

Road running

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

OTHER SPORT

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

RUGBY LEAGUE

OTHER SPORT

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

OTHER SPORT

FRIDAY

RUGBY UNION

RUGBY LEAGUE

OTHER SPORT

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

RUGBY UNION

RUGBY LEAGUE

OTHER SPORT

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

RUGBY UNION

OTHER SPORT

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Quarter-finals

Northern Ford Premiership

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Second division

Jewson National League

Welsh League

Premier division

First division

Anglo-Welsh club matches

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

House of Lords

Law Report March 15 1999

Cross-examination without evidence

Regina v Bingham
Regina v Cooke

Before Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Lord Millett

[Speeches March 11]

A defendant who had been called by the court to give evidence and sworn, but asked no questions by his own counsel, was liable to cross-examination by the prosecution and had not failed to give evidence under the Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order (SI 1988 No 1987 (NI 20)).

The House of Lords dismissed appeals by Graham Carlo Bingham and Samuel David Cooke from the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland (Lord Justice MacDermott and Mr Justice Campbell) who on April 25, 1977 had dismissed their appeals against their convictions of murder by Mr Justice Higgins sitting without a jury at Belfast Crown Court on December 20, 1994.

Article 4 of the 1988 Order provides: "(2) Before any evidence is called for the defence, the court - (a) shall tell the accused that he will be called upon by the court to give evidence in his own defence...

"(3) If the accused - (a) after being called upon by the court to give evidence in pursuance of this article ... refuses to be sworn; or (b) having been sworn, without good cause refuses to answer any question, paragraph (4) applies.

"(4) The court or jury, in determining whether the accused is guilty of the offence charged, may - (a) draw such inferences from the refusal as appear proper..."

Mr Charles Adair, QC and Mr Jim Allister, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for Bingham; Mr Arthur Harvey, QC and Mr John F. Larkin, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for Cooke; Mr R. Appleton, QC, Mr G. Kerr, QC and Mr R. K. Weir, all of the Northern Ireland Bar, for the Crown.

LORD LLOYD said that the appellants had been convicted of the murder of Ann Marie Smyth, a young Catholic woman from Armagh, on February 23, 1994 in Cooke's house in Belfast. The motive had been sectarian.

The judge had been satisfied on the prosecution evidence that both appellants were guilty of murder. So he had had no need to draw any adverse inference under article 4 and had not done so. But he had held that he would have done so if necessary. The Court of Appeal had agreed with him.

Counsel for the appellants could not, as they had conceded, argue that the judge had been wrong to rely on an adverse inference, for the simple reason that he had not done so. Instead, they submitted that the appellants had not had a fair trial.

The only basis for that submission was that the appellants had been denied the opportunity of being cross-examined by the prosecution. Such an argument had an air of unreality.

At the end of the prosecution case, counsel for each appellant had informed the judge that he would not be calling his client. The judge had called the appellant to come to the witness box to be sworn and to give evidence in his own defence. The appellant had entered the witness box and been sworn.

Counsel had then submitted that the appellant was now the court's witness and that, while at common law a witness called by the court could be examined and cross-examined with the leave of the court, there was no express power to allow examination and cross-examination in the case of a witness called by the court under article 4 and such a power should not be inferred.

The judge had ruled that a defendant called on to give evidence under article 4 did not become the witness of the court and that a defendant who had been sworn in those circumstances and who was not then asked any question by his own counsel could not be cross-examined by the prosecution. Counsel had then said that he had no questions for the appellant.

Counsel had not gone so far as to suggest that the appellants had had a legal right to be cross-examined, but they had argued (i) that an inference could have been drawn against the appellants without their having refused to answer any questions in cross-examination and (ii) that they had been denied the opportunity of refuting the allegations against them in cross-examination.

Since the judge had been satisfied beyond reasonable doubt of the appellants' guilt without the need to draw any inference, the question whether he had been entitled to do so did not arise.

As to (ii), putting on one side the fact that counsel had initially argued that the prosecution had no right to cross-examine, the remedy had lain in the appellants' own hands.

If they had wanted the opportunity of refuting the allegations against them in cross-examination, all they had had to do was to give evidence in chief. Thus the submission that they had not had a fair trial was utterly without merit, legal or moral.

The Court of Appeal had justly described their conduct as a stratagem to evade the provisions of article 4. His Lordship could well understand why the judge had refused to permit cross-examination and why the Court of Appeal had upheld his ruling. No doubt they had been leaning over backwards to be fair to the appellants, but they had been wrong.

Once the appellants had entered the witness box and been sworn, albeit in the belief that they had been called by the court and not by the defence, they had exposed themselves to cross-examination by the prosecution and their co-accused like any other witness who was tendered for cross-examination.

LORD HOPE, agreeing, said that article 4 had been amended by paragraph 61(3) of Schedule 10 to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, applicable to England and Wales, so as to be in the same terms in all essential respects as section 35 of that Act. Those amendments had, however, not been in force at the date of trial.

There had been no risk of the appellants being faulted on the condition in article 4(3)(b) of the 1988 Order of refusal to answer questions so long as the matter as to whether they should be questioned had been in the hands of their own counsel.

The assumption that their counsel had made had been that, so long as they did not put any questions to the appellants, the appellants could not be questioned by anyone else except the judge, whose scope for putting questions would be so restricted by the rules of fairness that it could be assumed that none would be put.

If that assumption was right, it could not be said that the appellants had failed to answer any question that was put to them and there would be no basis for drawing any inferences. The judge had plainly been doing his best to find a sensible answer to what might well have been thought to be an abuse of the procedure in article 4, but he had been wrong on both points.

In the first place, it could not be said that the appellants had failed to give evidence until they had been given the opportunity to answer any questions that might be put to them.

In the second place, there was no rule that prevented a witness who had been sworn but not asked any questions by counsel for the party on whose behalf he had entered the witness box from being questioned by or on behalf of other parties to the trial who could demonstrate a legitimate interest in doing so.

Support for those propositions could be found in *R v Paul* ([1920] 2 KB 183, 185) and *Dickson, A Treatise on the Law of Evidence in Scotland* (3rd edition (1887) paragraph 165) citing *Her Majesty's Advocate v Milne* ((1866) 5 Irv 229).

The decision of the trial judge in *Milne* had never been questioned, and the passage in *Dickson* continued to form the basis on which these matters were handled in practice in the Scottish courts.

Although *Milne* came from another jurisdiction, it lent further support to the view that, once the appellants had been sworn, Crown counsel had been entitled to cross-examine them despite the fact that no questions had been put to them by their own counsel.

Lord Steyn, Lord Hobhouse and Lord Millett agreed with Lord Lloyd and Lord Hope.

Solicitors: Donnelly & Wall, Belfast; B. M. Birnberg & Co for John J. Rice & Co, Newtownards; Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland.

Trade association cannot sue over passing-off

Chocosuisse Union des Fabricants Suisses de Chocolat and Others v Cadbury Ltd

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment February 25]

A trade association for Swiss-based chocolate manufacturers, whose members included the majority of such manufacturers, and which was formed to protect the denomination of the origin "Swiss" but did not itself sell any chocolate, had no individual locus standi to sue in a passing off action against a trader seeking to sell goods as Swiss chocolate in the United Kingdom since no legitimate business interest could be identified which the association was entitled to have protected.

Accordingly since, under Order 15, rule 12(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, a plaintiff could only sue in a representative capacity where it had the same interest as those it sought to represent, the association had no locus standi to sue in a representative capacity on behalf of its members.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Cadbury Ltd, from Mr Justice Laddie (*The Times* November 25, 1997; [1998] RPC 117), who, in an action brought by the plaintiffs, Chocosuisse Union des Fabricants Suisses de Chocolat, Kraft Jacobs Suchard (Schweiz) AG and Chocoladefabriken Lindt und Sprungli (Schweiz) AG, suing on behalf of themselves and all other persons who manufactured chocolate in Switzerland and exported such chocolate to the United Kingdom, had (i) granted injunctive relief restraining Cadbury from passing off chocolate, not being Swiss chocolate, by use of the name Swiss Chalet and (ii) ordered an inquiry as to damages, varied by the Court of Appeal limiting it to Suchard and Lindt.

Mr Michael Bloch, QC, for Cadbury; Mr Simon Thorley, QC and Mr Colin Birss for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK, having considered and rejected the main grounds of Cadbury's appeal on passing off, said, on the question of locus standi, that the ability of Suchard and Lindt to sue in a representative capacity was not in issue.

With regard to Chocosuisse, it was not suggested that it was itself selling any chocolate at all but it was accepted before the judge that it could bring proceedings on its own behalf in passing off to prevent the reduction of its membership which might be caused if the designation Swiss chocolate became unprotectable in England; but that it could not sue in a representative capacity. That was said to follow from *Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma v Marks & Spencer plc* ([1991] RPC 351).

The plaintiffs challenged that finding and Cadbury challenged the judge's finding that Chocosuisse had standing to sue on its own behalf so as to prevent the reduction of its membership.

The grounds of Cadbury's contention were that Chocosuisse neither alleged nor adduced any evidence, or any sufficient evidence, to prove that it had a reputation within the jurisdiction of the English court or that it had any actual or potential members within that jurisdiction or that it had suffered or was likely to suffer any damage by reason of any reduction in the number of any actual or potential members.

By Order 15, rule 12(1) a representative plaintiff was required to have the same interest in the proceedings as the person he purported to represent. There were accordingly two questions:

1 Did the plaintiff have any interest entitling him to bring proceedings?

2 If so, was it the same interest as of those he sought to represent?

In *Scotch Whisky Association v J. D. Vintners Ltd* (unreported, March 6, 1996), an action was brought by the Whisky Association and two individual plaintiffs carrying on business as distillers. It was accepted, and recorded by Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, in his judgment as rightly accepted, that the trade association did not have a cause of action in passing off in its own right.

The Vice-Chancellor could not see on what basis a trade association could maintain a passing off action based on conduct which constituted a passing off by the defendant of its products for those of the members of the trade association.

In *Parma*, however, it had been accepted before Mr Justice Morritt and in the Court of Appeal that the trade association did have locus standi to sue in its own right.

Lord Justice Nourse had said (at p367): "The defendants had accepted that the consortium was a body corporate duly established under the law of Italy and the judge held that it was entitled, under the English rules of conflict, to sue on its own behalf. That entitlement is not in dispute."

His Lordship preferred the Vice-Chancellor's reasoning and was unable to identify any legitimate business interest which the trade association Chocosuisse was entitled to have protected in a passing off action against a trader seeking to sell goods in the United Kingdom in a way that suggested that they were Swiss chocolate.

If there was no individual right, Order 15, rule 12(1) was of no assistance.

Even if there was an individual right, plainly it was not the same right as that of the Swiss chocolate manufacturers whom Chocosuisse sought to represent. That was the view taken by Mr Justice Morritt in *Parma* and affirmed by the Court of Appeal.

His Lordship referred to the opposite, although not concluded, view taken on that point by the Vice-Chancellor in the *Scotch Whisky* case: "The trade association, if it sues in a representative capacity, can perhaps maintain such an action but that would be to base the action on the combined causes of action of its members. Such an action would not be based on a cause of action vested in the association itself."

His Lordship agreed with the sentiment the Vice-Chancellor had expressed that it would be convenient if a trade association were permitted to sue in a representative capacity on behalf of its members.

However, it was impossible to reach the conclusion that that was permitted on the language of Order 15, rule 12(1) where, as would usually be the case, the trade association either had no interest capable of founding a cause of action or had an interest which was not the same as that of its members.

Chocosuisse, accordingly, had no locus to sue in the present proceedings whether in its own right or as a representative.

Lord Justice Brooke delivered a concurring judgment and the Lord Chief Justice agreed with both.

Solicitors: Willoughby & Partners; Bird & Bird.

Costs regulations validly made

Microsoft Corporation v Backslash Distribution Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Park

[Judgment February 11]

The making by the Lord Chancellor of regulations 103 ("Legal aid granted after costs incurred") and 124 ("Assisted person's liability for costs") of the Civil Legal Aid (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 339) was authorised by section 34(5) of the Legal Aid Act 1988.

Mr Justice Park so held in the Chancery Division, when

(i) ordering each of the third defendant, Ian Richard Tuppen, and the fourth defendant, Subhash Singh, to pay costs incurred by the plaintiff, Microsoft Corporation, in committal proceedings for contempt of court by those defendants on an indemnity basis and

(ii) ordering postponement of payment by the third defendant of costs incurred while his legal aid certificate was in force until his liability should have been determined by the court pursuant to section 17 of the 1988 Act.

Mr Alistair McGregor, QC for Microsoft; Mr Alastair Wilson, QC, for Mr Tuppen; Mr Richard Price, QC, for Mr Singh.

MR JUSTICE PARK said that although Order 62, rule 7(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court provided that "in awarding costs to any person the court may order that, instead of his taxed costs, that person shall be entitled - (a) to a proportion ... of those costs from or up to a stage in the proceedings so specified; or (b) to a gross sum ... in lieu of those costs", the court could not order payment to a successful party of a gross sum in lieu of part only of such taxed costs.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Payne Marsh Stillwell, Southampton; Clyde & Co.

House of Lords

Benefit of adoption to child

In re B (A minor) (Adoption order: Nationality)

Before Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett

[Speeches March 11]

On an application for an adoption order the first consideration for the court was the benefit which would accrue to the child throughout its childhood, including, in the case of a non-British child, the benefits to the child throughout its childhood from the acquisition of British nationality and right of abode in the United Kingdom.

However, the court would be entitled to refuse the order if there were no such benefits and adoption was being used solely as a means of conferring citizenship prospectively upon an adult.

The House of Lords so held when allowing an appeal by grandparents against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir Patrick Russell) (*The Times* March 16, 1998) allowing an appeal by the Secretary of State for the Home Department from a decision of Mr Justice Sumner on November 6, 1997 whereby he made an adoption order pursuant to section 6 of the Adoption Act 1976 in respect of B, a minor, in favour of her grandparents.

Mr Michael Harrison, QC and Mr David Jones for B and her grandparents; Mr Ashley Underwood for the Home Secretary.

LORD HOFFMANN said that when Mr and Mrs J emigrated to the United Kingdom from Jamaica nearly 40 years ago they left behind Mrs J's daughter who subsequently married and had a daughter B, now nearly 18.

In April 1995 B, then 14, came with her mother to visit her grandparents in Leeds and they were given leave to enter the UK for six months. At the end of that period her mother returned home but B remained with her grandparents who applied for an extension of her leave.

B had been put into school in Leeds. Her mother and grandparents wanted her to finish her education there and she was thought to have good prospects of going to university. The Home Office refused the application for an extension. Meanwhile B's father had died and her mother was living in deprived circumstances in Jamaica.

A law centre advised Mr and Mrs J, who were British citizens, that the only way B could become entitled to stay in the UK was for them to adopt her as their own child.

She would then become a British citizen by virtue of section 1(5) of the British Nationality Act 1981 and by virtue of section 2(1)(a) of the Immigration Act 1971 would have right of abode in the UK.

The Home Secretary intervened to oppose Mr and Mrs J's application for an adoption order. As grandparents, Mr and Mrs J were qualified to adopt B.

By section 11 of the Adoption Act 1976, a relative, defined in section 72(1) to include a grandparent, was entitled to make arrangements for the adoption of a child without the intervention of an adoption agency.

B's mother gave her consent so the condition of parental agreement in section 16 was satisfied. Nevertheless the adoption had some unusual features.

B had only two years of minority left. And although there were obvious benefits to her from being able to spend those two important years living with her grandparents and going to school in Leeds, it would not ordinarily be necessary for her to be adopted.

Were it not for her precarious immigration status, she could simply have stayed with her grandparents. But the acquisition of British citizenship by adoption was an essential element in securing her the advantage of living with her grandparents and continuing at her school.

In deciding whether to make an adoption order the judge was required to exercise his discretion in accordance with section 6 of the 1976 Act to "have regard to all the circumstances, first consideration being given to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout his childhood..."

The judge made the adoption but the Court of Appeal discharged it.

The proposition advanced for the Home Secretary, and accepted by the Court of Appeal, was: "The court should ignore benefits which would result solely from [a] change in immigration status when determining whether the child's welfare calls for adoption."

In his Lordship's opinion that was contrary to the express terms of section 6 of the 1976 Act and not supported by authority. His Lordship could not see how, consistently with the language of section 6, the court could not simply have ignored the considerable benefits which would have accrued to B during the remainder of her childhood. That the order would enable her to enjoy those benefits was a fact which the court had to take into account.

No doubt the views of the Home Office on immigration policy were also a view which the court was entitled to take into account although it was not easy to see what weight they could be given.

Parliament had not provided, as it might have done, that the adoption of a non-British child required the Home Secretary's consent. On the contrary, it had provided that the making of an adoption order automatically took the child out of the reach of the Home Secretary's powers of immigration control.

If it appeared to the judge that adoption would confer real benefits upon the child, it was very unlikely that general considerations of maintaining an effective and consistent immigration policy could justify the refusal of an order.

The cases relied upon by the Home Secretary did not go nearly far enough to support the exclusionary rule advanced, but they justified two more modest propositions.

First, the purpose of an adoption was to give parental responsibility for a child to the adopters so that the court would not make an adoption order when the adopters did not intend to exercise any parental responsibility but merely wished to assist the child to acquire a right of abode: an "accommodation adoption" as described in *In re A (An infant)* ([1963] 1 WLR 231, 236).

Second, the court would rarely make an adoption order when it would confer no benefits upon the child during its childhood but give it a right of abode for the rest of its life.

In such a case there were no welfare benefits during childhood to constitute the first consideration, and the court was in effect being asked to use adoption to confer citizenship prospectively upon an adult.

That was a power which Parliament had entrusted to the Home Secretary and the courts were reluctant to trespass upon the area of his authority.

A striking case in that category was *In re K (A minor) (Adoption order: Nationality)* ([1995] Fam 38), where the application for adoption came before the judge eight days before the child's eighteenth birthday.

If a right of abode would be of benefit only when the child became an adult, that benefit would ordinarily have to give way to the public policy of not usurping the Home Secretary's discretion.

It was a curious feature of this case that if the Home Office had been willing to allow B to remain in this country for the two years during which a residence order was in force, the case for an adoption would have been much weaker. It would not have given B any benefits during her childhood which she would not have been able to enjoy anyway.

But on the evidence before the judge the adoption order conferred substantial welfare benefits upon B during the remainder of her childhood and to those the judge rightly gave first consideration.

Lord Nicholls, Lord Hope, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett agreed.

Solicitors: Blake Lapthorn for Chivers Walsh Smith and Irvine & Co, Bradford; Treasury Solicitor.

● *Law Reports are also published in the Internet edition, contemporaneously with the published newspaper, on http://www.the-times.co.uk (free registration). Back issues may be reached from the front page of the day.*

Scots Law Report March 15 1999 Outer House

Applying boundary criteria correctly

Shetland Islands Council v Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Orkney Islands Council v Same

Before Lord MacLean

[Judgment January 13]

Where local government boundary commission were carrying out a statutory review of electoral arrangements, the primary criterion to be applied was what was in their opinion desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government, in the sense of serviceable and suitable local government.

The commission could be taken to have applied the criterion correctly if, notwithstanding a failure to refer thereto in their reports to the Secretary of State for Scotland, from an examination of the substance of the reports, supported in their working papers, it could be seen that they were addressing the central question directly.

Lord MacLean so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session when dismissing petitions by Shetland and Orkney Islands Councils for judicial review of recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Mr Matthew Clarke, QC and Mr James Wolffe for the petitioners; Mr James Drummond Young, QC and Mr Robert McCreadie for the respondents.

LORD MacLEAN said that the commission had carried out a statutory review of electoral arrangements in terms of section 16(2) of, and Schedule 5 to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994.

The commission had set out in their reports to the secretary of state how they went about the fulfilment of their obligations in relation to each of the petitioners. However, it was instructive to look at the documentary productions, where necessary, and not simply to the text of the reports as the petitioners had urged.

The statutory duties which the commission were required to perform had been dealt with in *City of Aberdeen Council v Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland* (1998 SLT 613).

The commission, when carrying out a review, might make proposals to the secretary of state for effecting changes which appeared to them desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government and they might make those changes in any of a number of ways which were enumerated in section 13 of the 1973 Act.

It was clear from that section that the commission might decide that no changes need be made. It was also clear that if the commission did make proposals for changes they had discretion in determining what was in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Much of the debate in the present case had turned on what was meant by the words "effective and convenient local government".

According to the petitioners, local government was effective if it worked well in the delivery of services and the performing of functions conferred by statute. It was convenient if it delivered those services and performed those functions without undue trouble and effort.

The respondents maintained that the phrase meant serviceable and suitable local government. The central question was whether the commission gave full effect to it throughout their review.

If the commission wished to make proposals for effecting changes by way of electoral arrangements, their primary task was to consider what was desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government in terms of the overall number of councillors in relation to a local government ward, the number and boundaries of the electoral wards, etc and the designation of any electoral ward.

The correct application of the statutory provisions in a case where the commission wished to make proposals for effecting changes was well understood. The commission had first to decide on the appropriate number of councillors required for effective and convenient local government. Then it was their duty to comply so far as was reasonably practicable with the rules set out in Schedule 6 to the 1973 Act and secure, as nearly as might be, electoral equality: see *Enfield London Borough v Local Government Boundary Commission for England* ([1979] 3 All ER 747).

The so-called parity rule might yield to special geographical considerations. If it did, then it might be that, in the interests of effective and convenient local government, the proposed number of councillors and electoral wards would have to be increased.

His Lordship considered that in setting a ratio of councillors to electors for the Islands Councils at 1:750 the commission had taken account of the special geographical and demographic features of those local government areas in proposing a particular number of councillors for each area. They had gone on to consider in considerable detail the question of local ties and special geographical considerations.

It was perfectly correct to say that, having set provisional figures for the number of councillors and electoral wards, they had not been persuaded to change their minds. But his Lordship was wholly unable to say that they had their minds closed to the possibility that those numbers might be changed.

The difficulty throughout had been the failure by the commission in the reports to set out the statutory criterion for their making proposals for changes which was: What in their opinion was desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

They had been clearly advised of that in the *Aberdeen* case where Lord Penrose referred to the sole question the commission were required to ask: What was the number of councillors required for the effective and convenient administration of local government in the local authority areas under review? That they had not, had provided substantial material for the petitioners to exploit.

The commission had been concerned with electoral equality but not to the exclusion of the particular features of the local government areas.

In the end, his Lordship had reached the conclusion that the point taken about the terms of the reports had been a failure in expression, not an omission to consider the appropriate statutory criterion.

Law agents: Simpson & Marwick, WS; Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

SHORTS (under 5 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

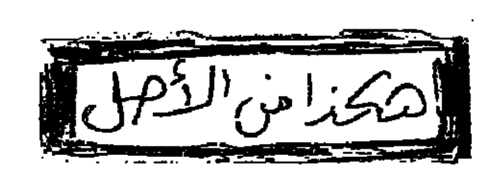
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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Benchmark Group, Ennstone, Jourdan, Superscape VR. **Finals:** ASW Holdings, Bovis Homes, Burford Holdings, Ennstone, Eurotunnel, Fairey Group, Glambia, HSBC China Fund, Infobank International Holdings, Laporte, Linden, National Building Materials, NSB Retail Systems, Ruberoid, Sharpe & Fisher, Spirax-Sarco Engineering, Ugland International Holdings, Wellington holdings. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

TOMORROW

Interims: Cortecs, Dorling Kindersley, Wolseley. **Finals:** Bodycote International, Brammer, Capital Corporation, Charter, Coca-Cola Beverages, Computacenter, Derwent Valley Holdings, Energis, Financial Objects, James Finlay, Headlam Group, Metalrax Group, Newey Group, Novartis, Secure Trust Banking Group, Simon Group, Tarmac, Tudor, Telewest Communications, Arthur Wood & Son. **Economic statistics:** February public sector finances.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Regent Inns, Sirdar, Smiths Industries. **Finals:** Birmingham Midshires, Brixton Estate, Clydeport, Devro, DCS Group, Gibbs & Dandy, Hepworth, Intercare Group, Kier Group, Kingfisher, Oriflame, Xaar. **Economic statistics:** minutes of Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee's March meeting, February labour market report.

THURSDAY

Interims: Town Centre Securities. **Finals:** British Borneo O&G, British Mohair, Churchill China, Cobham, Dialog Corp, Dunedin Inc Growth Investment Trust, Geest, Hanover International, Kwik-Fit Holdings, John Laing, Alfred McAlpine, MDIS, Mithras Investment, William Morrison, National Express, Oxford Molecular, FW Thorpe. **Economic statistics:** February retail sales, February provisional M4 and M4 lending, British Bankers' Association February bank lending, Building Societies Association February building society lending, February final M0, February car output.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled. **Finals:** none scheduled. **Economic statistics:** UK NTC February consumer industries leading indicator.



Kingfisher soars ahead of rivals

KINGFISHER: The final results due out on Wednesday will be published simultaneously in London and Paris for the first time, marking the group's growing status as a pan-European retailer.

Profits should show a healthy increase with the market looking for between £555 million and £565 million at the pre-tax level compared with £505.5 million last time. Earnings should be up from 27.7p to between 28.5p and 29p.

The upbeat trading statement in January means that the results are unlikely to contain any nasty shocks. Despite the tough trading backdrop for retailers, Kingfisher experienced a reasonable performance over Christmas. Brokers say they are looking for a 5 per cent rise in like-for-like sales, an achievement that many retailers would have liked to emulate.

A strong performance is expected from Darty, its French division, with Woolworths and B&Q also performing strongly. The only setback to sales growth is likely to come from Comet. The payout should grow 1p to 12.5p.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: Brokers are looking for interim pretax profits of between £97 million and £100 million when the engineering and aerospace group announces interim results on Wednesday. That would compare with £89.3 million for the corresponding period last year.

Aerospace now accounts for more than half of operating profits, but brokers say the group is considering refocusing its strategy, which would result in a large acquisition in aerospace and the sale of its industrial division to leave it focused on its aerospace and medical activities.

They say that it has already run a slide rule over LucasVarity's aerospace unit with a price tag of about £750 million and parts of British Aerospace's newly acquired Marconi defence division.

Smiths's industrial operations are reckoned to be worth about £700 million. The group has already admitted that is actively looking at a number of "sizeable deals" and has targeted potential candidates in North America.

Brokers will be looking for a strong sales performance in aerospace which should boost operating profits by about 30 per cent. A strong defence order book, and incremental sales to Airbus, should also have offset any impact from the decline in Boeing production rates.


Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy is expected to deliver a strong set of final results at Kingfisher

On the medical side, operating profits are expected to be flat and there will be little contribution from newly acquired BCI. Industrial may see signs of a slowdown in European markets, although the North American market is expected to have remained buoyant.

The engineering team at SG Securities has pencilled in pretax profits of £98 million. The payout should be about 7.4p compared with 6.75p last time.

TELEWEST: Final results tomorrow will doubtless provide further heavy losses for the blue chip cable provider. The deficit at the pre-tax level is expected to be in a range of £290 million to £325 million compared with £310 million a year earlier. Turnover, on the other hand, is set to rise more than 40 per cent to between £540 million and £560 million compared with £387 million a year earlier. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation are forecast to almost treble to between £140 million and £150 million from £53 million.

The results will include a four-month contribution from General Cable and Birmingham Cable acquired in the second half of last year. Attention will focus on the crucial measures of penetration and churn for Telewest's television and telephony services.

The group's fourth-quarter operating statistics released in February showed cable television penetration up 1.9 percentage points to 23.8 per cent at the 1998 year end and residential telephony penetration up 1.7 points to 30.5 per cent across the combined Telewest/General Cable franchises.

The crucial issue for the industry is the launch of digital cable services which is expected in the last quarter of the year. Digital cable is seen by supporters of the cable sector as the key development that will allow the industry to leverage the high bandwidth available over its networks.

EUROTUNNEL: A first-time profit is forecast when final results are announced today. BT Alex Brown, the broker, is looking for a one-off surplus of £60 million at the pre-tax level compared with a corresponding loss of £611 million. But BTAB emphasises that this is the result of a one-off add-back of £270 million interest accrued during the restructuring. The group is expected to plunge back into the red during 1999 and beyond.

Volumes were helped in 1998 by the recovery in business after the Channel Tunnel fire, which restricted business the previous year. It was also helped by strong underlying demand and the fallout from the merger of rivals P&O and Stena.

LAPORTE: The chemical group's shares have been driven higher ahead of today's final results by speculative buying. The figures themselves are unlikely to impress, but the group continues to be tipped as a takeover target after a period of consolidation within the chemical sector.

Goldman Sachs is forecasting pre-tax profits virtually unchanged at £132 million with earnings per share declining from 49.5p to 48.7p. Despite the acquisition of Inspec in August, Laporte will have found the going difficult. A trading update in December indicated that continuing business during the second half was comparable with 1997. Sales volumes had continued to grow and margins had been maintained despite the poor performance of the electronics division. Speciality organics will have enjoyed a reasonable performance along with formulated products. But pigments and additives will have been flat.

The payout should be up from 25.75p to 26.45p.

CHARTER: A downturn in profits and a maintained dividend is about the best that shareholders can expect when the group unveils final results tomorrow. Pretax profits are likely to come in at £82.5 million, down from £94.1 million last time, with earnings per share down from 61p to 55p.

Last year was a tough one for manufacturers and 1999 shows further signs of deterioration with margins coming under pressure. Both welding and specialist engineering will have experienced a further decline. Brokers are worried that profits from the welding division could be sharply lower because of the scale of operational gearing in the industry. The payout should be held at 31.5p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Key time for rates

IT IS a make-or-break week as far as the immediate outlook for UK interest rates is concerned with a raft of important economic data due to be published plus the minutes of the last Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

On Wednesday the labour market data will provide a second look at the newly restored average earnings data, with analysts hoping for a rapid decline in the pace of wage growth. The December rolling average is expected to show wage growth at 4.3 per cent compared with 4.5 per cent in November. The predicted rise in unemployment has not yet arrived, but the City expects the downward momentum to have finally ended with the claimant count measure of unemployment remaining unchanged in February.

The retail sales data on Thursday will provide evidence of whether the slight improvement in sales has continued into February. Early evidence has suggested that, while sales were slow in February, they were not a disaster. Analysts expect a 0.5 per cent decline in the monthly measure of sales volumes but the annual rate will climb from 1.2 per cent to 1.6 per cent as the overall performance comes in ahead of the same month last year.

On Tuesday the February public sector net cash requirement figures are published. Although the Treasury marginally upgraded its forecast of a full-year surplus to £5.3 billion, analysts still believe that Gordon Brown may have been a little too conservative in his calculations. End-of-year departmental spending binges make the exact figure difficult to predict but the City expects a surplus of about £2.5 billion ahead of £2.25 billion in the same month last year. On Wednesday the Debt Management Office is due to publish its estimates of funding requirements. It has indicated that it will sell about £17.3 billion worth of gilts, although net new sales are expected to total about £2.5 billion, which analysts regard as a comfortable level.

In the US the main focus will be the consumer prices data on Thursday and the industrial production figures on Tuesday as analysts assess whether a rate rise remains a real possibility. Industrial production is forecast to rise a respectable 0.3 per cent compared with a flat figure the previous month. The annual rate of consumer price inflation is expected to rise marginally to 1.7 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** BTR Siebe, West 175, Kingfisher.
The Sunday Telegraph: **Buy** Inn Business, Saatchi & Saatchi, Benchmark Group, Saltire.
Sunday Express: **Buy** Polypipe, Geest, WSP, Granada.
The Mail on Sunday: **Buy** Abbey National, Corporate Services, Fibernet, Waterhall Group.

Expansion plans omit Heathrow

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is ready to surrender Heathrow's status as the world's busiest international airport in favour of expanding airports elsewhere.

With Frankfurt airport forecast to take over the top position, held by Heathrow for more than 20 years, ministers are preparing a marked change of strategy to reduce dependence on Britain's premier airport. Aviation officials have been instructed to abandon the "chase the supremacy" strategy to prepare plans for expanding other airports near London and throughout Britain.

As a result, officials have been told to make no assumption that Heathrow will win approval for Terminal Five, which would increase the airport's capacity from 60 million passengers to more than 80 million. Frankfurt is expected to overtake Heathrow by about 2005. The German airport will then become the world's biggest international airport, although trailing behind several US airports which have heavy domestic traffic.

The Government's attempts to scale down future growth at Heathrow comes at a critical time for the airport. A decision on whether to build a new terminal will not be made for at least two years, after the completion on Wednesday of Britain's longest public inquiry, which has lasted almost four years. By the time that the inquiry inspector, Roy Vandermeer, publishes his report in 2001, ministers will have prepared their own detailed blueprint for using alternatives to Heathrow. A senior Whitehall official said: "We can't just sit and wait for a decision on Terminal Five, and we have to look seriously at the way we use other airports and, indeed, whether Heathrow is being used as efficiently as possible."


Reid: wants better rail links

Among alternatives that ministers will explore during their two-year study of airports in the South East of England is the extension of the Eurostar train services to Heathrow, serving Paris and Brussels. The move, already being examined by Eurostar's operators, would potentially remove thousands of flights from Heathrow's congested timetable. Flights between Heathrow and the two cities comprise about 10 per cent of the 440,000 flights a year.

John Reid, the Transport Minister, also wants better rail links between Heathrow and nearby airports — Gatwick, Luton and Stanstead — to enable them to take on some of the 20 million passengers who use Heathrow only to change planes. "We must face up to the facts that we are a small country with a huge demand for air transport. We have to ask whether we can continue to be a modern-day staging post for the whole world. It is no good being the biggest if delays means we are no longer the best," said the Whitehall official.

Market too tough on hotels sector

BY DOMINIC WALSH

BRITAIN's hotels have been unjustifiably savaged by the stock market, according to a report by London Economics, to be published tomorrow.

The report, commissioned by the British Hospitality Association, says that between mid-1996 and the end of 1998, hotel stocks fell 40 per cent relative to the market. Of the current decline, it says: "We find it hard to reconcile the steep collapse in hotel share prices with the probable mild downturn in profit growth."

The report, *The Commercial Prospects of the UK Hotel Industry*, argues that the collapse in share prices in the early 90s was "a rational response to falling turnover and falling profits" in the face of sinking GDP, a recession in the US and the Gulf War.

But London Economics concludes that hotel profits are now much less sensitive to GDP, with costs now much lower as a percentage of turnover and more responsive to falls in revenue. It points out that since 1992, profits of the big hotel operators have risen, in real terms, by more than 10 per cent per annum.

Microsoft shake-up to change strategy

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT, the maker of the Windows software that operates most of the world's personal computers, will this week announce a broad reorganisation, splitting the company into four groups.

The changes, designed by Steve Ballmer, the president and number two to Bill Gates, will seek to direct Microsoft towards the needs of various customer groups rather than the key software products.

The reorganisation comes after Microsoft said it would suffer a $400 million revenue shortfall for the first quarter of 1999, caused by problems with the Office software program. Delays in development of the next generation of the program have forced the company to issue coupons that allow consumers to update the software when the new version arrives.

The four branches of Microsoft expected to emerge include a consumer division, a corporate sales section, a group directed at software developers, and a division to develop new programs and update existing software products.

Union backing for Bradford & Bingley

BY SUSAN EMMETT

JOHN MONKS, General Secretary of the TUC, will today voice his support for Bradford & Bingley's campaign to retain mutual status in a drive to protect jobs at the building society.

The union leader is meeting Christopher Rodrigues, the society's chief executive, to discuss his concern that a significant number of jobs would be lost if the society's members vote for conversion next month.

Bradford & Bingley's fight to retain mutual status begins in earnest this week as members receive their voting forms. Bradford & Bingley said it did not know how many jobs were potentially at risk, although the society made it clear that it would not be able to maintain its current branch network. It said there would also be cutbacks to its independent financial advice network.

Mr Rodrigues said: "John Monk's support for the mutual cause is welcome. He clearly recognises that the future of our staff and our members is best served by Bradford & Bingley remaining a building society."

THE FACTS

Turnover: £1.62 billion.
Pre-tax profit: £574.8 million.
Market cap: £5.9 billion.
Employees: 3,650.
Overview: Operates the electricity transmission network and balances power supply with demand. The Grid enables the trading of power. Operates overseas in electricity transmission and in building telecoms networks. Has a 49 per cent stake in Energis.

THE BOARD

David Jeffries has been chairman of the Grid since its formation at the privatisation of the electricity industry in 1990. In July he will make way for James Ross, the chairman of Littlewoods and the former chief executive of Cable & Wireless. Mr Jeffries is also the chairman of Viridian, the holding company of Northern Ireland Electricity.

David Jones, the chief executive, has spent his career in electricity, joining the Grid in 1994 from South Wales Electricity, where he was chief executive. Previously he was in management at South Western and Midlands electricity boards.

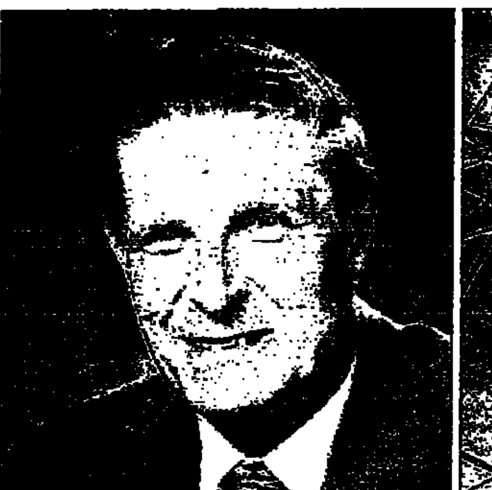
Stephen Box, the finance director, joined the Grid two years ago from Coopers & Lybrand, where he was a partner specialising in corporate finance.

Wob Gerretsen, the business development director, joined from Costain, where he was chairman of engineering and construction, in 1995.

Roger Urwin, the managing director of transmission, was chief executive of London Electricity until 1995 when he moved to the Grid. He is a non-executive director of Foreign and Colonial Special Utilities Investment Trust and Total Oil Marine.

Non-executive directors include: **Bob Fairclotb**, who was chief operating officer at BTR until 1995; **John Grant**, chief executive of Ascot and a former finance director of Lucas Industries; **Richard Reynolds**, a former managing director of GPT and current chairman of the Eastern European Trade Council; and **Malcolm Wilkinson**, chief executive at Standard Chartered.

CORPORATE PRO






David Jones, top left, chief executive of National Grid, whose pylons tower over England and Wales. The Grid sponsors England's cricket umpires, exemplified by the now retired Dickie Bird, right, and an umpire's judgment is also called for at the control centre to match electricity supply to demand

LAST YEAR was the year the National Grid came into its own. The Grid runs the electricity transmission network and, by that definition, is the very dullest of what are perceived as pretty dull utilities. However, the company demonstrated a spark of life beyond its pylons and substations last summer when its name was linked surprisingly with the National Air Traffic Services (Nats). The Government wants to sell a majority share of Nats, and after it asked the Grid to formalise its verbal interest in a letter, the cat leapt out of the bag.

Later — in December — the Grid made its much-vaunted swoop into the US market by buying the New England Electricity System (Nees) for £2.7 billion. Unlike PacifiCorp — Scottish Power's prey — Nees was widely regarded as well run, so the move raised the question of what the UK company could get out of its US purchase. It hopes for promising changes to the regulatory system and the chance to use expertise gained in the UK's competitive market to its advantage in the deregulating region of New England.

Last month there was the planned £386 million acquisition of Eastern Utilities Associates, bolstering the Grid's new presence in New England.

Both deals will take about a year to crawl through the mass of regulatory considerations and the company has ruled out further forays into the US in the meantime.

In between these two buying extravaganzas, Grid filled its piggy bank by raising £1.2 billion from the sale of Energis shares. Energis was the Grid's highly successful telecoms division, in which it kept a big majority stake after floating the business in late 1997. Having built up the business, the Grid had long said that it wanted to reduce its interest — it is now left with 49 per cent — and to leave its future to telecoms marketing experts. The soaring value of telecoms stocks provided the opportunity.

Running beside the pioneering stuff was continuation of the Grid's strategy of pushing into developing countries to work on nascent power and network projects. A key move was its £200 million involvement in a project to expand Brazil's telecoms network. The timing was not great: it came on the day Brazil devalued its currency by 12 per cent.

David Jones, chief executive, wants the Grid to have a straight three-way split for its income. "Within ten years we want to have a third of revenues from the UK and Europe, a third from the developed world, such as the US, and a third from the emerging world," he said.

The huge US deals already move the Grid towards getting a third of its overall sales from overseas ventures. Pushing for a global position is, of course, not unusual for any company. The Grid, however, is in the fortunate position of having its home market relatively secure, except for regulatory tightening. The grid system is a natural monopoly and it is unlikely that the regulator or the Government would want to dismantle the network or hive off its functions just yet — especially as they struggle to introduce new trading arrangements.

Certainly, as it stretches its wings, events over the past few months have made the Grid into a different beast from the one that first saw the light of day three years ago, when the system was severed from the 12 regional electricity companies and put to the market in its own right.

The Grid had an inauspicious start. It was quickly dubbed National Greed for its fat-cat controversy — the last in a series of utility scandals — when four directors gained £1.5 million profits from share options on the business's flotation. Even John Major, then Prime Minister, had not been able to stop the bonanza. Months before the flotation, he asked the Grid directors to forgo some of their benefits. He acted as Labour made political capital from utility fat-cats in the run-up to the election.

The Grid went on to compound this reputation by setting in train further controversial incentive schemes. It even received a rebuke over pay from Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, who rarely left the more arcane realms of price formulae and capital investment in his public comments.

The Grid's flotation was accompanied by another controversy — the lights nearly went out.

The company thrust itself into the media limelight soon after taking its infant commercial steps. It had warned regional electricity companies that, because of a shortage of fuel caused by contraction in gas supplies, there could be sporadic power cuts if demand peaked. It was hardly a ringing endorsement of electricity privatisation. Dozens of journalists packed the Grid's control centre in Wokingham to witness the meltdown. Nothing happened. At the peak 5pm national dash for the kettle on the dreadful day, demand was comfortably matched by supply. Some accused the Grid of scaremongering or, at least, profile-building.

There is little doubt, though, that the Grid's management of the electricity network is a complex task. Electricity cannot be stored, so calculating supply and demand is vital. The Grid must also monitor output of individual power stations, the amount of power coming into the English and Welsh pool from France and from the Scottish generators, and the performance of the wires.

This is all done from the Wokingham centre, where the nation's power is tracked in minute detail. Next to a giant map of the UK's electricity network are two clocks. One has real time, the other electronic time. They should both have exactly the same time, although the electronic one can get slightly out of sync if the rate at which power moves in and out of the system deviates from the optimum. The variance between the times would be slight, but the Grid has a statutory duty to stay within the narrowest parameters in regulating the power flow.

Outside the BBC and ITV, the people knowing most about effects of television programmes on behaviour probably work for the Grid. Its forecasters know the storylines of soaps weeks ahead and receive up to a year's notice of a major drama production. This is because our boiling of kettles and opening of the fridge to get a beer at half-time in a big match or in a gripping programme's intervals have a huge effect on power demand.

The Grid is also in four-hourly contact with the Meteorological Office to find out how cold it will be (for heating) or alternatively how hot (for air-conditioning) and how cloudy (for lights).

Although all this is done at Wokingham, the Grid has an alternative secret command centre nearby in case of a terrorist attack on its primary centre. Managing networks with all these variables has its advantages. The Grid is the only company in the world that co-ordinates a national supply system. It has done this as the industry has been both privatised and then pushed into competition. Such a skill is internationally marketable. It is also a strong domestic talent.

The Grid may find its role in matching supply to demand being reduced by an impending overhaul of electricity trading. However, there is nothing to stop it making a convincing case to run a rail network or the part of the gas market that matches unexpected shortfalls with supply. Such steps will make the Grid's interest in controlling air traffic not so surprising after all.

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"There is probably more scope for growth in the UK than most people give credit for. It has enormous network skills and there is nothing to prevent those skills being used in other areas."

Hasnain Malik, Salomon Smith Barney

"The grid has made real progress over the past three years, driven by Energis. But there is concern about overseas activities outside the US. It has been seen as having a very scattergun approach in many of the developing markets."

Nigel Hawkins, Williams de Broë

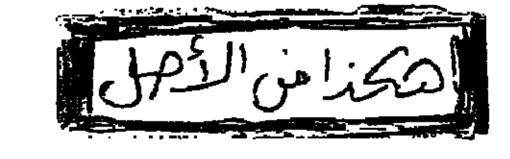
Ethical Expression[1]	5/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	10/10
Financial record	9/10
Share performance	7/10
Attitude to staff	8/10
Strength of brand	6/10
Innovation	6/10
Annual report	7/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	7/10
Total	72/100

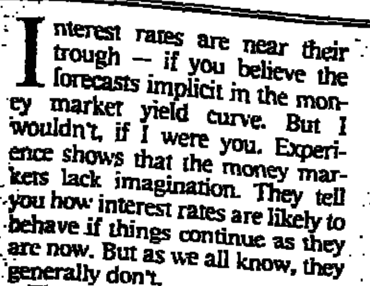
[1]Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]Crisp Consulting.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (£million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3¼	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1		...	...
191	74½	11.70	AFA Systems	92½	− 4	...	...
133½	93½	12.30	AMCO Corp	95		9.2	7.1
157½	93½	6.17	ATA Group	95	+ 2¼	7.6	7.7
271	175	38.60	Access Plus	230		2.8	
67½	44½	5.87	AdVal Group	44½	..	...	7.6
7¼	2	2.35	African Gold	2¼	..	...	...
96½	36½	31.70	Albemarle & Bd	71½		2.2	18.3
43½	24	9.23	Alizyme	26	− 1½	..	...
102½	42½	12.10	Ambient Media	50½	+ ¼	..	...
325	88½	7.09	Ambishus Pub Co	112½	− 5	..	14.5
108½	88½	33.00	Anglo Sibrn Oil	91			..
119	72½	3.36	Anglo-Welsh	108½	+ 1	3.5	8.9
117½	50	40.80	Antonov	52½	+ 2		
110½	62½	15.90	Aortech	78½	...	...	...
100	80	4.42	Aram Resources	85	..	6.2	32.2
90	50	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65	...	..	...
5¾	3¼	2.77	Artisan (UK)	4	− ½	...	...
485	236¾	99.90	Ask Central	440	+ 2½	0.3	38.9
72½	52½	1.00	Athelney Trust	55½	..	2.5	47.4
24¾	4½	13.20	Atlantic Caspian	7¼	...	...	...
68½	5½	4.56	Avalon Oil	6	...	...	..
263	124	81.80	BATM Adv Comms	263	+ 23½	1.2	..
229½	53½	12.30	BCO Technologies	68½	+ 7	...	...
317½	130	25.70	BGR	165	− 5	1.4	17.7
3¼	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼		...	..
116	44½	22.20	Barbican Health	115			
2¼	1½	4.25	Beechcroft	2¼	...	2.8	13.4
3¼	1	5.81	Beaufort	3	...	2.8	59.6
44	26½	5.36	Bickerton	35	− ½	1.8	33.2
117½	43	0.78	Billam	49		13.5	...
53½	20½	1.87	Bilston Bttrsea	21	− 1	4.5	..
1½	0¾	7.08	Birchin Intl	1¼	...	..	15.4
44½	30½	19.50	Birmingham City	39	+ 3	...	...
67½	4	0.40	Blakes Cloth	4		...	7.5
35	27½	1.77	Bogod 'A'	30½		4.5	..
156½	68	12.40	Bond Intl Soft	91	..		22.1
325	225	2.13	Bowness Leis	305	− 1	3.1	13.2
36¼	7¼	2.64	Brancote Hldgs	11½	− ½		
105	60	2.52	Br Bloodstock	60	...	5.2	7.3
25½	9	1.10	Buckland Invs	9	− ½	...	
12	6	0.05	Buckland Inv Wts	6	..		...
262	106	18.30	CA Coutts Hldgs	154	+ 1	3.0	14.9
170	80	6.29	C & B Publishing	85		..	6.9
11	7	12.40	CCM Distribution	7½	..	..	12.9
73	49	3.19	CW Residential	72½	+ 1	2.9	36.5
235	140	11.00	Cafe Inns	220½	+ 19	1.9	16.7
60	40	5.54	Caledonian Tst	45	..	..	5.6
19	5¼	1.58	Cambridge Min Res	5½			
2½	2	3.38	Cambury Inv	2¼			35.9
1	0½	0.69	Cambury Inv Wts	0¾			..
87	34	49.20	Card Clear	35	− 1½	0.9	
54½	35½	3.89	Carisbrooke Ship	38½		3.2	12.4
22	9¼	210.60	Carlisle	18½	+ ¼		48.7
12¼	4	4.29	Carlisle Wts	10¼	+ ¼		
55	32	1.76	Cassidy Bros	32		11.1	
13	3¼	2.15	Celebrated Group	3½	− ½		
105½	71½	21.60	CI Comms(TV)	98½		3.4	17.4
86	40	15.80	Charlton Ath	44½	− ½		
14½	2¼	14.80	Charterhouse Cms	14¼	+ ¼	3.0	12.3
115	66½	135.30	Chelsea Village	85½	+ ½		61.2
27	13¼	121.50	Chorion	23¾	+ 2	0.4	38.9
122½	96½	32.80	Citadel	99		2.3	61.8
82	25½	6.79	City Gourmets	32½	− 1		
113	95	0.99	Clan Homes	110			
30½	3½	9.76	Coffee Rep	10¼	+ ¼		
317½	117	22.10	Comino	241	+ 7	1.9	17.0
369	35½	7.96	Computerland UK	86½	− 2	2.7	10.5
13½	12	9.69	Concurrent Tech	13¼	..	1.8	20.7
45½	22	6.75	Conister Tst	30	− 1	5.0	11.2
149	127	14.50	Connaught	149½	..	4.3	11.9
2¼	1¼	1.95	Corporate Exec	1¼			
15	1	0.43	Cress Intl	1			
153½	113½	5.79	Cresco Intl	113½			30.9
230	77½	1.68	Crown Eye	105		14.9	
42½	19½	6.32	Dalkeith Inns	29½			
297½	150	5.22	Dawn Til Dusk	110	− 15	4.8	8.3
5½	2	1.74	Deanes	2¼	...	..	
400	170	15.00	Deep Sea Leisure	237½	− 2½	..	18.8
6¼	2¾	7.03	Denmaster	4¾	..	3.1	11.6
495	15½	7.80	Desire Petroleum	16½	− 2	..	45.3
79½	52	7.86	Digital Anmtn	53½		...	...
32½	16½	10.30	Dimension Res	16½	...	..	..
18½	3½		Dimension Wts	13	..		
27½	16½	2.59	Dinkie Heel	17½	...	11.4	6.5
135½	79½	7.61	Delyn Group	87½	...	3.6	14.7
45	16½	5.55	Dmatek	29½	− 1	...	15.1
406	195	17.20	Dobbies Garden	260	− 15	2.4	14.3
30	19½	2.72	Downtex	22½	..	5.9	..
263½	145	22.50	Dragons Health	187½	..	1.9	19.5
3¾	2	1.71	Drings of Bath	2	...	...	12.9
1075	217½	32.20	Durlacher	1075	+ 12½	..	32.6
39½	34½	3.67	Eagle	37½	...	..	..
392½	73½	78.70	Easynet	384	+ 61½	..	.
330	100	24.90	Elec Retail Sys	115	− 15		...
103	69	20.50	Enterprises	75½		7.0	7.3
27½	11½	5.24	Epic Group	22½	..	...	23.1
95	27½	3.06	Eurasia Mining	37½	− 3	..	...
3¼	2½	4.92	Fairplace Cons	3¼	...	4.2	8.4
422	200	10.90	Fariake	421	+ 16	1.2	17.9
82½	47½	11.70	Fayrewood	55½	− 1	2.8	9.7
103½	20½	4.33	Fieldens	86½	...	...	..
117½	57½	13.00	Firestone Dmds	57½		..	...
182	95	4.68	Flomerics	180	+ 1¼	1.8	..
102½	57½	7.56	Formscan	67½		5.7	8.3
188½	99½	11.50	Fountain Forestry	121½	− 6	12.6	17.1
205½	158½	12.40	Furlong Homes	187½	− 2	4.5	..
99½	24½	5.38	Future Int Telep	48½	− ½		...
301½	133½	15.00	GB Railways	170	+ 5	4.8	9.5
60	37½	6.60	GR Hldgs	50		2.5	14.3
12¾	4	15.70	GTL Res	9¾	...		
179½	85½	81.30	Gartland W&B	93½		6.9	5.1
26¾	12	35.00	Gold Mns Sard	25½	+ 2½		
29½	25½	12.50	Golden Prospect	25½	− 2		
70	15	10.70	Golf Club	22½			..
171½	111½	23.90	Gooch & Housego	141½	+ 10	1.5	19.8
23	9	3.60	Griffin Mining	17	+ 3½		..
2¾	2	2.25	Grosmont Hldgs	2¼	+ ¼		...
1¼	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½	..		
15	7¼	1.93	Grosvenor Ltd	8			35.5
182	160	47.80	Guiton	181		3.7	13.6
6¼	3	2.11	Hansom	5½			26.7
255	135	23.20	Hardy Undwtg	138	− 3	5.9	5.9
2¼	0¾	13.80	Harford	1¾			..
40	28	7.61	Hacas Group	29½	+ ½		19.1
89½	44½	3.04	Hat Pin	67½		1.9	
405	325	8.09	Heavitree	385		2.4	19.6
295	275	12.20	Heavitree A	290		3.2	14.0
105	55½	5.61	Helicon Pubg	95			
145	60	12.30	Highams Sys	65	− 7½	1.9	10.9
135½	87½	8.14	Highland Timber	92½			
80½	56½	17.50	Honeycombe Leisure	77½			12.9
100	60	1.60	Hurlingham	100		1.2	
97½	57½	3.85	Hydro-Dynamic	57½	− ½	3.1	19.8
83½	19½	5.85	IES	25	− 2½		
390	145½	12.60	I S Solutions	262½	...	1.5	30.1
737½	137½	174.20	Indpt Energy	667½	− 15		
86½	51½	11.60	Indpt Radio	65			
332½	32	21.40	Infobank Intl	85½	+ 10½		
98½	17½	5.02	Inner Workings	30½	− 2		
125	32½	0.84	Integrd Ac Mgt	32½			
103½	24	24.90	Intelligent Env	72½	− 6½		
487½	330	25.60	Inter-Alliance	465	+ 15		
140	108	24.30	Interior Services	116½	+ 6½	3.4	9.5
113½	97½	5.38	Inter Link Foods	114½		2.2	9.7
189½	37½	65.10	Internet Tech	145	+ 14		
647½	372½	83.50	Intl Greetings	665	+ 7½	1.5	17.1
172½	29½	15.40	IOC Intl	49½	+ 2		
425	138¾	19.30	ITG Group	385	+ 1		43.6
262½	170	23.60	JSB Software Tech	248	..		
97½	29½	5.67	James R Knowles	29½	− 6	5.3	10.1
49½	32½	3.30	Jardinerie Ints	37½			10.1
416	222½	17.00	Jennings Bros	230	− 15	4.6	13.2
4	1¼	2.81	J Lewis Hmd	2		5.8	14.7
62½	37½	8.12	Jordec	38½			7.7
46½	17½	3.74	Jumbo Intl	19			
3	1	9.05	Just Group	2	+ ¼		
42½	30½	3.51	Kero River	30½	...	..	...
55½	11½	1.82	Keystone Soft	14½	+ 2½	...	...
25½	3		Keystone Wrts	3	...	...	...
193½	136½	13.30	Kingfisher Ls	137½	...	2.1	14.0
55	38		LTG Technologies	38	...	...	7.5
260	95	6.67	Lady in Leisure	113	− 4	2.2	9.8
260	122½	8.21	Landround	182½	− 5	3.4	15.1
427½	365	25.60	Lawrence	365	...	3.0	12.1
5750	3750	77.00	Lawrie Group	4050	...	2.5	4.1
90¾	14½	1.71	Lepco	16	− ½	...	...
415	296½	66.50	Linton Park	337½	+ 5	8.6	4.0
495	305	6.10	Loades	305	...	0.5	...
31½	9½	4.60	Loftus Road	11½	...	...	...
10¾	6¼	3.07	Lond & Edin Pub	9¼	..	...	...
125	75	3.98	London Town	75	...	3.8	5.1
51	7½	0.45	London Town Wts	45	...	...	...
191½	127½	4.67	Longbridge Intl	141½	...	4.2	11.6
144½	23½	0.65	Longmead	23½	..	12.0	3.1
2	0½	1.75	Lotteryking	1	...	...	12.2
1	0¼	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	...	...
36½	20½	3.05	MMS Petroleum	25	− 10	...	...
1½	0¾	13.60	MV Sports	0¾	...	...	...
23¾	5½	6.87	Magnum Power	7¼	...	..	...
517½	267½	50.00	Majestic Wine	362½	+ 35	1.8	21.8
14½	4	10.20	Mano River UK	14½	+ ½	...	...
9½	4¼	4.34	Marx & O'seas	5½	...	...	...
55½	32½	4.81	Market Link Pb	32½	...	3.5	10.2
115	65	1.55	Matrix Hlthcare	67½	..	5.6	...
13¾	10¾	5.18	Mears Group	11	− ¼	3.6	8.3
38½	17	30.50	Medisys	18¼	− ¾	...	...
65½	19½	15.00	Megalomedia	20½	...	1.5	22.8
56½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	...	...	...
65½	30½	6.79	Methvens	46½	+ 15	...	...
114½	100½	13.00	Metnor Group	102½	+ 2	...	17.5
115	80	4.08	Metrodome	80	...	...	...
191½	45½	44.50	Minorplanet	91½	+ 4	...	...
106½	35	17.20	Mondas	88½	+ 7	...	...
380	195	31.30	Moorepay	267½	..	2.8	...
124	50	3.91	Mountcashel	51½	...	...	4.2
70½	34½	9.45	Mulberry Group	45	...	4.2	..
3¾	2	2.07	MultiMedia	3	...	..	...
13¼	6¾	7.75	Murray Financial Corpn	7¾	− ¼	..	...
110½	107½	5.90	NBA Quantum	110	..	...	11.2
15¼	8	0.59	NECA	8	...	3.1	...
71½	40½	26.30	NMT	67	− ½	...	...
148	52½	11.10	NRP	148	+ 8	...	36.0
375	160	26.40	Nsb Retail Sys	240	− 5	0.3	28.0
225	135	10.70	NWF Grp	135	+ 3	7.2	6.8
195	140	10.20	Nash (Wm)	145		6.9	5.6
5½	3¾	4.19	Nat Bldg Mtls	4¼	− ¼		.
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Prf	105	...	..	..
90	40½	12.40	Netcall	63	+ 13	..	..
80	80	1.52	Norhomes	80		...	24.8
25	1¾	0.30	Nitin Petlm	1½	− ¼	...	..
80½	45½	2.87	Northstar Sec	45½	..	...	24.7
55½	17½	0.35	Northstar Sec Wts#	17½		..	..
27½	27½	13.80	Offshore Tool & Energy	27½		...	...
62½	50½	10.10	Old Monk Company	55½	...	..	15.1
285	12½	4.50	On Line	138½	− 18½	...	..
227½	77	6.85	Optoplast	78½	+ ½	2.4	13.2
23¾	7¾	25.60	Oxford Biomedica	18	− ½	...	..
1¼	0½	8.02	Pacific Media	0½	...	...	...
39½	5½	2.72	Pan Andean Res	5¾	...	...	...
32½	15¾	2.22	Parallel Picts	17½	...	...	...
245	215	5.16	Park Ests(Lh)	215	− 5	6.0	14.6
18½	7½	5.62	Pathfinder Props	8			4.6
154½	77	9.98	Peel Hotels	153½		..	.
21	5½	4.15	Pembertons	8½	+ 1¼	..	..
183½	91½	8.46	Pennant Intl	128½	...	3.1	.
55½	34½	11.60	Personal No Co	43½	..	..	
155	58½	24.30	Petra Diamonds	71½	− 8		
122	42	0.78	Petra Dmnds Wt	47	− 4		
30½	9	7.09	Philippine Gd	10½	+ 1	..	25.8
62½	10	3.20	Pilat Tech	13½	...	11.1	4.5
246½	162½	34.80	Policy Master Grp	246½	+ 39	...	57.2
297½	117½	30.60	PolyDoc	150	+ 1½	...	..
151½	38½	8.93	Polymasc Pharms	42½	+ 1	...	
1½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½	...	..	
1	0¾	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾	...	...	.
16	10½	12.30	Premier Asset Mgt	14	+ ½	...	10.7
189½	160½	7.01	Premier Direct Grp	189½	+ 17	...	8.2
7	2¼	111.40	Prestbury Group	3¼	...	...	47.3
445	310	7.25	Preston Nth E	345	...	...	...
79½	62½	4.93	Private & Comm	79½	...	0.9	14.3
260	255	6.93	Property & Cap	255	...	...	...
46½	6¼	9.91	Proteome Scies	12¾	− 1¼	...	...
57½	45	1.85	Pubs n Bars	50	...	...	...
107½	47½	10.50	Pycraft & Arnold	67½	...	3.2	11.8
118½	65½	11.50	Q Group	65½	− 4½	1.0	10.4
847½	214½	80.30	Ramco Egy	265	+ 27½	...	80.9
10¼	6¾	11.50	Range Cooker	7¼	...	2.4	6.9
137½	77½	14.50	Raphael ZH	97½	− 5	3.8	7.9
67½	14½	2.35	Recycling Servs	14½	...	...	13.2
19½	1½	0.52	Reflec	1¾	− ¼	...	...
7	1¼	1.36	Revelation Plc	1¼	...	30.0	...
20½	5	3.29	Riceman Insce	5	...	...	...
111½	68½	3.63	Romtec	68½	...	2.9	...
357½	130	17.80	SBS	202½	− 12½	2.0	16.4
152½	38	7.56	SCI Ent	59½	+ 4	...	...
110	34½	10.10	Salestore	45	− 6	...	...
132½	112½	6.78	Savoy Asset Mgt	125½	...	4.2	13.7
243½	138½	36.10	Science Sys	212½	+ 4	0.7	29.3
23	7½	1.38	Scotswood Inds	13	+ 1	...	...
3	0¾	1.97	Screen	0¾	− ¼	...	...
42½	1½	0.49	Selector	2½	...	...	...
190½	113½	9.19	Shalibane	113½	...	5.1	6.2
87½	45½	2.41	Shelton (M)	45½	...	11.5	6.0
47½	3½	33.60	Sibir Energy	5	+ ½	...	...
4¼	2½	6.97	Sira Bus Serv	3	− ¼	3.0	10.7
65½	10½	4.25	Soda Petroleum	10½	...	...	...
72½	35½	2.99	Solid State Sp	47½	...	1.3	30.0
265	190½	10.60	Sollake	230	...	3.3	21.0
62½	14½	6.31	Soundtracs	62½	+ 10	0.9	37.0
3½	0½	1.47	South Beach Concepts	0¾	...	...	...
94½	45½	9.01	Southern Vectis	45½	...	6.3	6.5
99½	54½	26.30	Sports & Out Media	85½	+ 3	...	32.5
156	55½	18.50	Sports Internet	119½	...	...	...
155	127½	8.39	Springboard Venture Managers	152½	...	...	...
950	137½	28.90	Stathmre	227½	+ 35	...	...
196	60	36.10	Stanford Rook	181½	+ 24	...	...
196½	3½	3.10	Stentor	26½	+ 8	...	...
71½	2		Stentor Warrants	5½	+ 1½	...	...
103½	75	4.12	SupaRule	75	− 5	...	...
155	125	12.50	Sutton Harbour	125	...	3.5	18.8
43	4	3.35	Syst Integ Rsch	25	+ 1	...	...
85½	47½	21.00	Systems Intl	61½	− 3½	0.2	19.6
5¾	3½	5.49	Talisman House	3½	...	...	8.8
2	1	0.04	Talisman House Warrants	1	...	...	...
67½	20½	5.26	Theo Fennell	32½	...	...	35.0
5¼	4½	9.00	Thomas Potts	4½	...	0.5	10.6
41½	11½	1.80	Tom Hoskins	17½	...	...	11.4
117½	27½	4.67	Total Office	29	− 2½	7.8	...
145	93½	12.10	Touchstone Grp	123½	+ ½	0.3	17.9
70	13½	5.35	Tradepoint Fcl	16½	− ½	...	...
102½	47½	8.28	Tricorder Tech	54½	...	...	...
160	135	6.72	Trinity Care	140	...	4.8	12.7
200	141¼	5.69	UA Group	162½	...	3.6	...
39½	38	3.59	Univent	39½	...	...	18.9
235	122	15.80	VDC	145	+ 5	4.8	12.5
42½	6	20.50	Victory Corp	6½	...	...	...
341½	153	34.00	Virtual Internet	169	+ 7½	...	...
160	41½	2.73	Voss Net	78	+ 4	...	...
85½	26½	9.18	WML	32	− ½	...	31.4
5	1¾	2.85	Weeks Group	2	...	6.9	8.7
67	42	2.94	West 175 Estar	53½	+ 10	...	...
£145	9500	7.66	West Bromwich	£105	...	...	12.1
13½	7¾	3.59	Western Selectn	8¼	...	3.8	27.4
4½	1½	0.11	Western Sel Wts	1¾	...	...	...
300	17½	1.96	Westmount Engy	17½	...	...	...
85	60	5.10	Willington	60	− 10	10.0	2.4
2¾	2¼	2.46	Wilmslow Group	2½	...	...	...
112½	55½	13.20	Winchester	98	+ 6½	...	51.3
205	55	16.60	World Telecom	68	...	...	...
150	135	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	...	4.9	16.3
165½	111½	1.79	XKO	149	...	...	...
27½	5½	27.10	Xavier Comp	27½	+ 11½	...	26.3
88½	51½	3.91	Yeoman	51½	...	...	...
7	3	0.89	Zicor Mining	3	...	...	...







Fall in base rates has not finished yet

Interest rates are near their trough — if you believe the forecasts implicit in the money market yield curve. But I wouldn't, if I were you. Experience shows that the money markets lack imagination. They tell you how interest rates are likely to behave if things continue as they are now. But as we all know, they generally don't.

The money markets' current view is partly driven by the growing conviction that American interest rates are going to rise. That may be right, but the real question is what would happen afterwards. The markets tend to think in terms of conventional interest rate cycles. Once rates start moving in one direction they continue for several further moves, perhaps extending over years.

But we no longer live in a conventional world. Those of us who have expected a stock market collapse to slow US consumer spending have so far been wrong — but we can still be proved right this year. If the market does not come to its senses naturally, then a US rate rise may do the job. Yet after a significant drop in asset prices, the Fed would surely not want to go on raising rates. It might even be forced to cut them again soon afterwards — not least because of the international ramifications.

There is a widespread view that the international financial crisis has run its course. But two related problems are bubbling beneath the surface. The penny seems finally to have dropped in Tokyo that if Japan is to find a way out of the present deflationary trap it will have to let the yen go. Meanwhile, there have been more hints from China that it may devalue. Her current account surplus suggests that she does not need to, but look instead at the domestic situation and it is a different story. Growth has slowed sharply and prices in the shops are falling at 3 per cent a year. Rising unemployment is contributing to increasing social unrest.

Critics say that China should try to boost growth by instituting reforms that will stimulate both corporate and consumer spending. But political considerations dictate that the authorities have to go easy on the pace of reform, while the entrenchment of deflationary psychology makes stimulating demand far from easy.

The markets should give due weight to the chances that a Chinese devaluation this year will set off another round of currency adjustments. If that happens, as well as unsettling financial markets, weaker Asian currencies would intensify disinflationary pressures in the West and thereby justify lower interest rates.

Over the past week, of course, the British money markets have focused on the implications of the



ROGER BOOTLE

Budget. A pity, then, that (as so often before) first impressions were misleading. On hearing the Budget speech, many a teenage scribbler rushed off to the television studios to denounce the big Budget "giveaway". They should have known better than to read the Budget's message from the Chancellor's speech in Parliament.

The true message only reveals itself after the practice of the black arts involved in poring over the Budget document (still known in the trade as the Red Book, even though it is white). For all Chancellors face two ways — to the voters in the country, and to the financial markets across the world. They must simultaneously be Santa to one group and Scrooge to the other.

Astute observers in the markets can normally see through this pretence, but this year things were made worse for them by the Chancellor's brilliant presentation, and by his practice of rolling up the tax reductions over three years. His much-trumpeted net tax cut of £6bn was in fact only £1bn in the coming year. More importantly, despite the cuts last week, taxes are in fact set to *rise* as a result of the measures announced in the previous two Budgets but yet to take full effect.

There is a significant chance, though, that a recession will blow Gordon Brown's plans off course. Given the international situation and the risk that rising unemployment here at home will dent consumer confidence, I think that the Treasury's forecast of 1 per cent growth is too high (although it is perfectly plausible).

This is where the news gets even better. Britain's fiscal position is now so strong that it could withstand a recession. Of course, borrowing levels would rise sharply, but look at the starting point. This year the Budget deficit is set to be only 0.3 per cent of GDP and the accumulated government debt 46.6 per cent. This compares with the Maastricht Treaty criteria of 3 per cent and 60 per cent. The only other large country in a comparably healthy position is the United States.

And this brings me to the last reason for expecting interest rates to carry on falling. According to most assessments, the pound is uncompetitive at these levels and should be falling. Yet it is not showing any signs of weakness. Indeed, against the currencies now subsumed in the euro, it is just about in the middle of its old ERM bands. I have a suspicion that, partly because our fiscal position is so robust, sterling may even strengthen, thereby intensifying disinflationary forces — and increasing the pressure for further base rate cuts.

You'll be wanting numbers. I am not changing my view because of a broadly neutral Budget and temporary signs of recovery in the world economy. The figure I have pencilled in for the end of the year is still 4 per cent. Yes, I know that's a good deal lower than the markets are expecting. Just reflect on what they were expecting last year.

roger.bootle@capitaleconomics.com

French close ranks against bank bidders

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A CAMPAIGN is under way in the French business community to prevent one of the country's large banks falling into foreign hands.

The hostile takeover bid launched last week by Banque Nationale de Paris for two of its rivals, Société Générale and Paribas, has thrown the sector into turmoil and prompted suggestions that an overseas bank may use the bid as an opportunity to muscle into the hitherto closed French banking sector.

Signs of the French closing ranks against outside bidders came as the Finance Ministry yesterday published a decree launching the privatisation of another bank, the state-owned Crédit Lyonnais.

BNP's move would create the world's largest bank in terms of assets, and one of the biggest in terms of market capitalisation. The predator and its prey are preparing for a long battle if the Conseil des Marchés Financiers, the financial markets regulator, rules tomorrow that BNP's bid is acceptable.

Although shares in BNP closed 3.6 per cent down at €80 on Friday, international investors have given broad, if prudent, support to the predatory raid on Société Générale and Paribas, which were themselves in merger talks.

This weekend Paribas denied reports that about 100 of its senior managers were opposed to the proposed link-up with Société Générale, although it was forced to admit that they had met last week.

Antoine Jeancourt-Galignani, chairman of AGF, the insurance group with significant stakes in the three banks, said: "The shareholders will decide. They are going to have to evaluate the interests of both projects." BNP is offering 15 shares for seven Société Générale shares and 11 for eight Paribas shares.

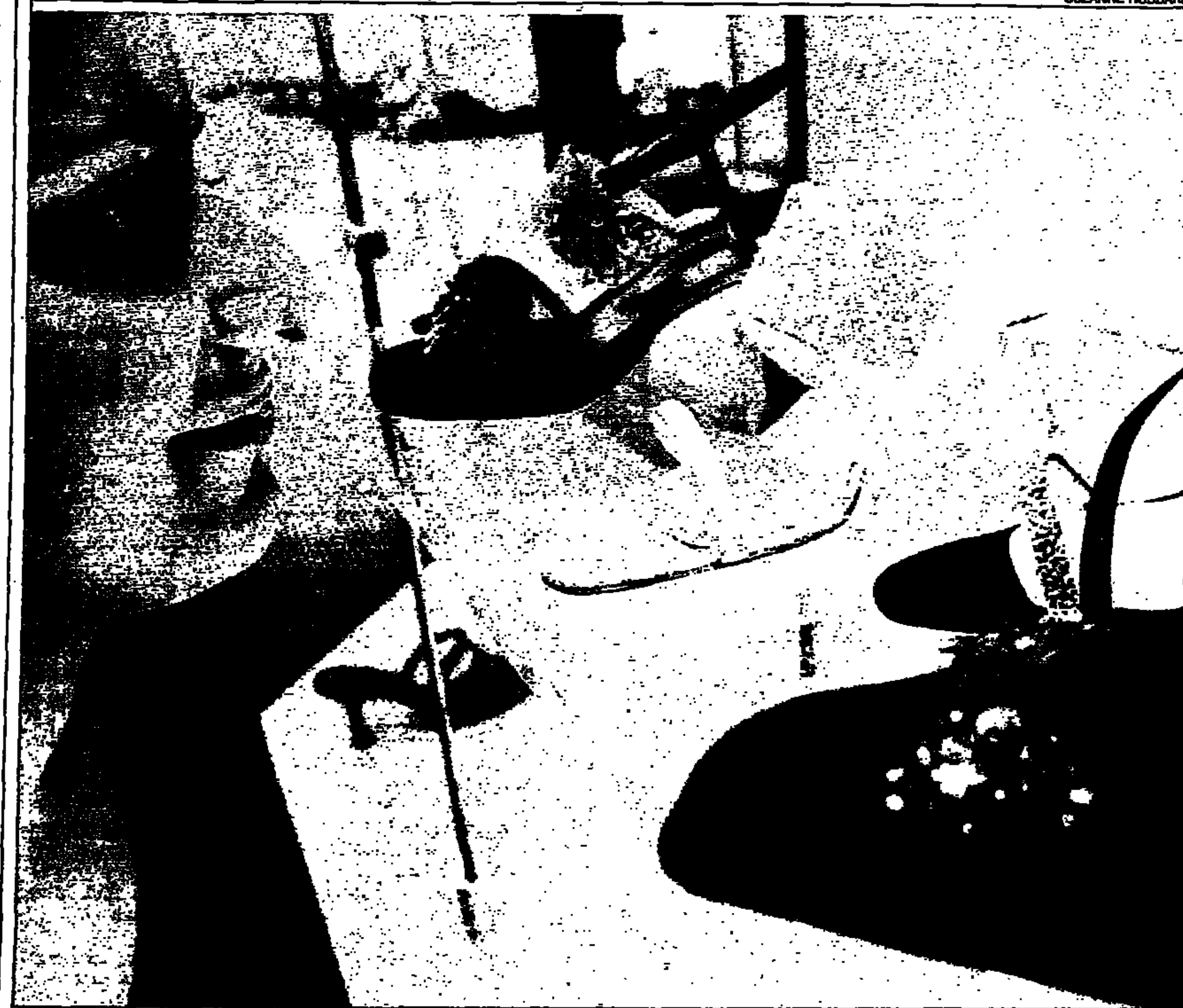
But with the bid certain to fuel speculation in shares in all three institutions, foreign banks are waiting for the chance to pounce on a hitherto closed French market. There have been reports that Germany's Dresdner Bank may bid for BNP.

But the French Finance Ministry, backed by senior figures in the Paris business community, is determined to prevent foreign institutions acquiring any of France's big banks. Both Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Finance Minister, and Jean-Claude Trichet, the Governor of the Bank of France, say they will defend the French banking sector.

The same determination was clear in the decree starting the Crédit Lyonnais privatisation yesterday.

A hard core of shareholders will be given the chance to purchase just less than a third of the bank, the Government said. Each member of the "group of partners" will be able to acquire a stake of between 1 per cent and 10 per cent.

SUZANNE HUBBARD



Fashion footwear: Church & Co, the gentleman's bootmaker, is aiming to attract buyers of designer shoes with the launch of @jones. The store, near Harrods in Brompton Road, West London, is being run through the Jones the Bootmaker division of Church & Co. The company, which hopes to reclaim some of the territory lost to clothes retailers, is thought to be a target for Bernard Arnault, of LVMH.

Eastern puts out gas rival challenge

Eastern Group, the power generator and distributor owned by Texas Utilities, is claiming to have emerged as the largest competitor to Centrica, which trades as British Gas, in the scramble for the deregulated gas market.

More than one million customers have signed up to Eastern for their domestic gas supplies, and more than 300,000 have joined the company's existing electricity customer base. Eastern announced full-year operating profits 12 per cent higher at £450.2 million.

Greenbury effect

Companies are imposing increasingly demanding performance conditions on executive share option incentive schemes as a result of the Greenbury Committee's report, according to a new survey. Long-term incentive plans adopted last year had higher potential awards than in earlier years, according to New Bridge Street Consultants, the management consultant.

BAe in Spanish bid

British Aerospace is believed to be in talks to buy Casa of Spain, the state-owned aerospace company. The company is to be sold off by the Government in the summer. BAe, which is also buying the GEC's Marconi defence division, has offered to buy all of Casa.

Miners' strike off

RJB Mining, Britain's biggest coal producer, has announced that a threatened strike by mineworkers in Yorkshire and the Midlands has been called off.

Weekend Money website: http://www.times-money.co.uk

Rio Tinto chief hits back

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

THE head of Rio Tinto, the world's biggest mining company, has rejected accusations that poor management in the minerals industry was to blame for the plunge in commodity prices.

Leon Davis, chief executive, said the huge oversupply that drove down the price of most metals was the result of decisions made by mining companies three or more years ago, when "the world was a different place". Mr Davis said that most other industries were also guilty of fostering excess capacity at various times.

"The mining industry is unfairly criticised," he said. "The supply decisions were made a fair time ago and people just got their timing wrong. That happens."

The industry has come under increasing attack for failing to arrest the slide in the price of its products. Analysts have been particularly critical of the decision of many companies to offset low prices by increasing volumes.

Shell in search of profits with principles

BY CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SHELL, the oil company, yesterday said that it sacked some 60 contractors last year for failing to comply with its business principles, which include prohibitions against bribery and corruption, and its health and safety policies.

The company also indicated that a number of employees had been dismissed for corruption, although fewer than the 23 who lost their jobs in 1997. The revelations came as Shell launched a $25 million (£15 million) media campaign intended to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development — balancing profits with care for the environment and the community.

The campaign, entitled Profits and Principles, includes mailshots to opinion-formers worldwide, an Internet discussion forum and $16 million in press advertising. One of the more arresting images consists of a tiny frog caught in a venus fly trap. Next to it is the Shell emblem and the message: protect endangered species or become one?

Mark Wade, who is organising the campaign at Shell said: "The Brent Spar was one of the best things that happened to us. We were shocked by the vehemence of the reaction and we asked ourselves how could we get so out of touch."

Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, said: "While much of our attention this year is going into making the business more profitable, this is not an excuse to neglect our longer-term responsibilities."

Shell commissioned a MORI survey of attitudes to the company worldwide, which revealed 50 per cent were positive, 40 per cent indifferent and 10 per cent highly critical.

Mr Wade noted that the company's share price "hardly wobbled" during the Brent Spar and Nigeria controversies. "But it hurt us emotionally — we were seen as lacking the values we thought we held."

MAM critical of DSS proposal

MERRILL Lynch Mercury Asset Management (MAM), the pension fund manager, has clashed with the Department of Social Security over plans to insert a clause setting out trustees' approach to ethical investment (Martin Waller writes).

A DSS consultation document suggests pension fund trustees should provide a statement of investment principles, saying whether they take into account considerations other than financial ones, such as a refusal to invest in arms or tobacco. But John Parsloe, a managing director at MAM, has written to the DSS saying that such a proposal is "objectionable", because the requirement for a negative statement implies trustees are in some way not conforming to best investment practice. "This is open to interpretation as an insidious attempt by government to influence trustees," he says.

He adds that decisions on ethical investment are entirely a matter for the client and not the fund manager.

De La Rue to cut costs

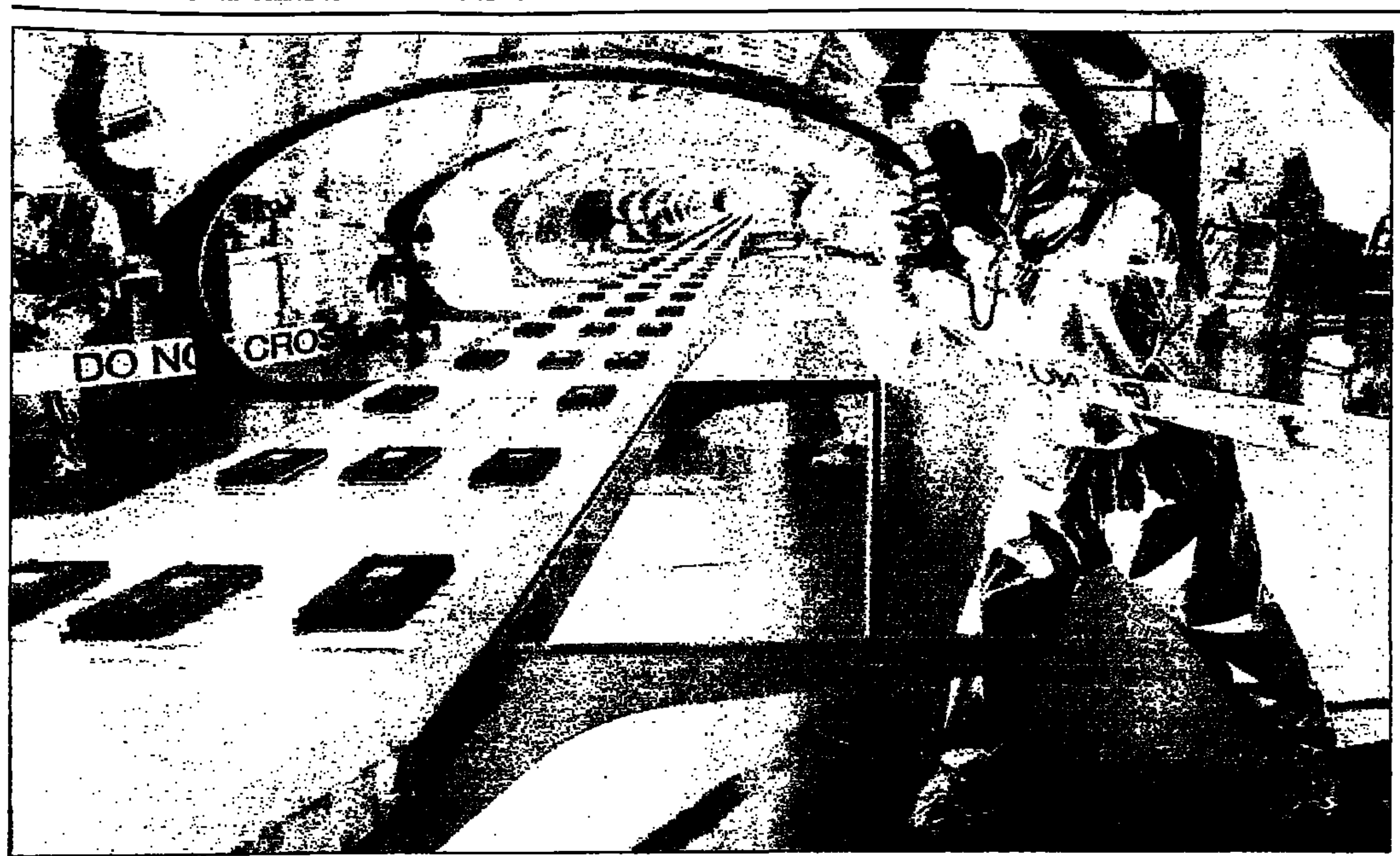
DE LA RUE, the maker of coin-counting machines, is expected to announce huge cost-cutting measures, including job losses, when it unveils the results of a strategic review tomorrow (Paul Armstrong writes).

The review, which has focused on the company's cash systems division, is being viewed as an attempt by De La Rue to rebuild its tarnished reputation among analysts and fund managers.

But analysts are questioning whether any amount of restructuring will generate acceptable returns.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.67	2.49
Austria Sch	21.59	19.93
Belgium Fr	63.57	58.61
Canada $	2.609	2.421
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9102	0.8387
Denmark kr	11.71	10.82
Egypt	5.76	5.15
Finland Mkk	9.45	8.70
France Fr	10.29	9.51
Germany Dm	3.090	2.848
Greece Dr	507	468
Hong Kong $	13.49	12.29
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	18558	13558
Ireland Pt	1.2333	1.1443
Israel Shk	6.92	6.26
Italy Lira	3074	2837
Japan Yen	210.42	192.89
Malta	0.677	0.618
Netherlds Gld	3.489	3.194
New Zealand $	3.20	2.96
Norway Kr	13.33	12.39
Portugal Esc	312.61	290.58
S Africa Rd	10.72	9.76
Spain Pta	260.53	241.74
Sweden Kr	14.06	12.96
Switzerland Fr	2.547	2.329
Turkey Lira	607329	566961
USA $	1.741	1.598

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.



Short stay: Silicon Valley's corporate venturing model is to make lots of small investments in a market related to your own and then exit within five years

Tech farmers aim to reap rich investment harvest

Saeed Shah examines the growth of venture capital activity by high-tech companies

Tech *farming* is not some new and even more terrifying modern method of genetically altering crops and mutating animals. It is the name given to venture capital activity by technology companies.

Most large software and hardware companies in America have woken up to the need for corporate venturing, following pharmaceutical companies before them. The home of tech farming is Silicon Valley in California, where there is a whole eco-system to support entrepreneurship and where large companies nurture smaller ones as everyday practice.

In January, Oracle, founded by Larry Ellison, announced a $100 million venture fund. Intel has a fund worth some $2 billion. Last week's Budget put in place tax breaks to help to corporate venturing get off the ground over here.

It is a business strategy peculiarly suited to the nature of the technology business and its dynamics. Silicon Valley's corporate venturing model is to make lots of relatively small investments, typically between $1 and $5 million, taking a minority stake in small, young companies. The aim is to invest in companies operating in a market related to your own and exit (sell your stake) the small company within five years.

You do not find car manufacturers rushing into the corporate venturing game. But it makes a lot of sense for technology. As we have seen from the astronomical valuations that loss-making Internet stocks have commanded, the economics of the technology sector does not fit neatly into the textbooks of business.

Unlike car manufacturers, technology companies have to accept that their market is so fast-moving that there is no room for smugness or sitting back on your laurels. Even the industry's giants may not be at the cutting edge of any given technology or its application.

You have to accept that the next big thing will not necessarily come from the boffins at your company, so somehow you have to find another way of getting a slice of the action.

Francis Vanderhoydonck, president and chief executive of Lernout & Hauspie Investment Company (LHIC), says: "Nobody actually knows how the future will look in IT. Nobody can be sure of maintaining their current market position, not even Bill Gates."

Cars are designed three, four, or five years before they go into production. That is a luxury you do not have in the IT sector. By its nature, the future of IT is uncertain. Even the present microchip technology, which doubles computing power every 18-24 months, is set to run out of capacity in about ten years' time and an alternative will have to be found.

Because of IT's newness, other companies are not necessarily enemies, because a mass market has yet to be created in many cases. Microsoft's alleged bullying tactics apart, technology companies are all in this together. They have to work with other companies.

Lernout & Hauspie, a Belgian company that makes voice-recognition technology, established LHIC as a separate company in January to make longer-term strategic investments. It follows their purer venture capitalist initiative, the FLV fund, which makes short-term investments. Both LHIC and FLV funds limit their investments to the language and artificial intelligence fields that L&H operates in.

Philip Vermeulen, managing director of FLV fund, says: "Your competitors might benefit, but what you gain is growing the absolute size of the market, even if you lose some of the proportion of the market that you hold."

Technology is forging the future. Only by working together, developing complementary technologies and applying the technologies of other companies to everyday needs, are you going to create a viable market.

Makers of fridges, for instance, do not have to create a market; that already exists. However, if you are creating voice-recognition products, that is new and the market is only just emerging. Any company promoting the field is doing you a favour. Soon, says L&H, we will have video recorders that you can programme just by talking to them, but the market is yet to be created.

Nigel Grierson, Intel's Corporate Business Development programme director for Europe, says: "Intel's primary reason for investing is strategic. First, Intel wants to stimulate demand for PC products that, in turn, can increase the size of the overall market segment.

"Intel does this by looking for companies that can help create new uses or new users for PC products. For instance, Intel invests in companies that can help make computing more visually compelling, more productive or more entertaining."

Fred Mitchell, manager of the $100 million fund at Adobe Systems, says: "We don't concentrate on financial returns. We look at companies that are addressing markets that have a strategic fit to our business."

Mr Mitchell says that Adobe has typically invested in six to ten companies a year since it started the fund in 1994, taking stakes of between 3 and 40 per cent. Of the $15 million invested in nine companies that have been acquired or gone public, Adobe has booked a $100 million profit.

It is the attraction of a small company's product that attracts, not its salesforce or revenue flow. And most technology companies like to work with classic venture capitalist firms as co-investors, for their financial expertise.

There is a distinction in the IT sector between core technology and its applications. Companies like L&H want to concentrate on developing the basic technology, but there is no market for the pure technology without applications. They want to leave those applications to others. Mr Mitchell says that the companies he invests in are typically two to four years ahead of Adobe in their application of Adobe software platforms.

Jo Lernout, co-founder of L&H, says: "We concentrate on the core language and artificial intelligence technologies. It would dilute our efforts and our strength it we did everything. There are infinite applications for speech recognition. Since we cannot be in 20,000 different applications, we would miss out on a lot if we tried to do it all ourselves. Helping companies who apply our technology helps both parties."



Ellison: strategic investor

The more successful the company applying a technology is, the more the brand of the inventor of that technology is "leveraged". And that is before the investor takes any direct profit from its investment.

For the small companies at the receiving end of investments, they not only gain funds, but get help with marketing and early access to new products being developed by the big brother.

The massive profits commonly enjoyed by larger technology companies lead to enormous cash piles that allow risky venturing activity.

And the enormous growth potential of the technology companies makes it fertile ground for venture capitalists, and who better to know which will succeed than those who are in the technology business themselves. Being on top of the technology also ensures a healthy deal flow for tech farmers, that other ingredient of successful venture capitalism.

The concept of tech farming has started to come to Europe. Intel has just set up a European corporate venturing division and has made eight investments so far.

Microsoft has become involved in the ambitious programme to make Cambridge the hub of an English equivalent of Silicon Valley.

Cambridge provides Britain's brightest high-tech hopes. The area has 1,200 technology companies, employing 35,000 people — the highest concentration in Europe.

The £50 million Amadeus Capital Partners venture fund in Cambridge was set up in December 1997, with investors including a couple of the university's colleges and the likes of Microsoft and Reuters. It has spent £10 million so far on ten investments.

Hermann Hauser, one of the founding partners at Amadeus, says: "One of the bottlenecks has been the quality of the entrepreneurial talent in Britain." Dr Hauser, who is "cautiously optimistic" about high-tech prospects in the UK, adds: "The other big obstacle is that there is not a smooth relationship between large and small companies in this country, unlike the US. Small companies are seen as tedious and difficult to work with."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 33

VISHNUITE

(a) A worshipper of Vishnu, an adherent of Vishnuism. "A Vishnuite who has inadvertently killed a monkey may expiate his offence by a mock sacrifice."

ZERUMBET

(b) An East Indian plant of the genus Curcuma, or its aromatic root, used, like the allied Cassumunar and Zedgary, as a tonic drug. An adaptation of the Hindi and Persian names. "The Zerumbet likewise growes in these parts, and is like to ginger."

ZYGAENA

(c) A fish of the genus formerly so named (now Sphyrna) comprising the hammer-headed sharks. An adaptation of the Greek word, which meant a fish of some sort, possibly even a hammer-headed shark. "The Dog Fish, the Zygaena, the Tope, the Cat Fish."

VALETAILLE

(a) A number or retinue of valets, for those who feel the need of more than one assistant to dress them. "No end of military valetaille, chiefly janizaries in Turk costume."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 ... Nxf2! 2 Nxf2 (2 Rxf2 Rd1 is decisive) 2 ... Rd1! 3 Qxd1 Bxf2+ 4 Rxf2 Qxd1+ and wins easily on material

CHANGE ON WEEK



US Dollar
1.6338 (+0.0240)
Euro
0.6698 (−0.0046)
Exchange index
103.1 (+0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
3832.8 (+65.0)
FTSE 100
6282.2 (+76.7)
New York Dow Jones
9876.35 (+140.27)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
15488.86 (+594.86)

TELEVISION CHOICE

Women on the inside

Jailbirds
BBC1, 9.30pm

Apart from a prisoner trying to kill herself, this new series about day-to-day life in a women's prison is surprisingly upbeat. The prison is New Hall in Yorkshire, a closed facility for more than 400 and the fastest-growing prison in the country. "There is quite a staggering rise in numbers (of female criminals) and we don't really know why," says the Governor Mike Goodwin. The inmates seem to like him and give a raucous cheer as he does his rounds. The prisoners coming in every day from courts around the North of England seem to get sympathetic treatment. This opener focuses on Toni Barker, a first-timer who will wring your heart. Continues tomorrow.

A behind-the-scenes look at New Hall prison in *Jailbirds* (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Births, Marriages and Deaths
BBC2, 9pm

After last week's astonishing ending, what on earth could Tony Grounds's primary school chums, the Good, the Bad and the Gormless, have in store for a climax? One waits in horrid anticipation. It is not misplaced. Tonight sees the final disintegration — and then a kind of spiritual reawakening — of the five remaining characters. The storylines merge with the resolution of that escalating quarrel between Terry (Mark Strong) and the combustible natural father of his sons (Robert Goodale). The high point has got to be the ghastly toga party thrown by Alan (Ray Winstone) for his cowering cronies. As they nervously tuck into their suckling pig the whole scenario collapses into a kind of Greek tragedy. And as Alex (Maggie O'Neill) belts out the words to *I Will Survive* over the closing credits it seems she has finally found her identity — and so have (nearly) all the others.

Cutting Edge: Shot
Channel 4, 9pm

Nick O'Dwyer's film is a strange evocation of the power, even glamour, of the gun. Those who give evidence include two men who have killed, an RUC officer who was nearly killed, an English woman who witnessed her lover shot through their car windows in Florida and an arms dealer whose eyes sparkle as he describes the sophisticated refinements of his products. A former soldier describes "the kick of the weapon, the tenseness of pulling the trigger slowly and remembering how to breathe". O'Dwyer intercuts the gory recollections with near-abstract close-ups of the meticulous design and beauty of a gun. Fascinating — but why make it?

Kavanagh QC
ITV, 9pm

"If equal affection cannot be, Let the more loving one be me." This quotation from W.H. Auden underlines a sad, graceful story in this second of the new series. Like the first, it starts on a knife-edge: a ravaged young girl, depressed by heroin, appears to blow herself up by holding a match to her faulty gas fire in the flat she shares with her boyfriend. "I killed her," says the boyfriend (Hugh Dancy) — and he sticks to his story, corroborated by an itinerant health visitor and with further confirmation suggested by a record for arson. But all is not what it appears, as our man in chambers (John Thaw) discovers. **Elizabeth Cowley**

RADIO CHOICE

Men in Black
Radio 4, 8pm

This new three-part series starts with the kind of rhythmic feet-on-gravel sound that raises the prospect of a programme about square-bashing and other forms of discipline. But this is discipline of a different kind for the series is about the training of Roman Catholic priests. The focus is Ushaw College outside Durham, where young men train for what the presenter Rosemary Hartill calls "a worldwide celibate male club dedicated to the service of God". Ushaw's President is Father Jim O'Keefe, a dedicated but determinedly informal man with a passion for Sunderland Football Club. The sense of community at Ushaw comes across strongly and I was surprised to discover that it also has female theology students.

Carnival Tales
Radio 4, 3.30pm

There is nothing quite like Carnival time in Brazil and the rest of us will never quite understand why. As a particpant says in this joyful 15 minutes: "The way that we party, you have to be a Brazilian to understand. If you are from another country you will never understand why somebody spends, like, three days jumping, jumping, jumping. Why? What that for? You have to be from here to understand." Yes, but you don't need to understand it to admire it and the presenter Mark Richards conveys not just the excitement but also the political and social impetus that makes Carnival a time of hope and excitement for millions of people, many of whom have little hope or excitement elsewhere in their lives. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Lamacq Live. Featuring Blur live from the BBC Hippodrome, and session tracks from 3 Colours Red and Feeder. Plus, the story of Beck's album *Odelay* **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Special **8.30** Jools Holland **9.30** Mark Lamarr: *Shake, Rattle and Roll* (8/10) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell. Live from Berwick-upon-Tweed, in the run-up to devolution for Scotland and Wales **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Dream Teams. Everton supporter Bill Kenwright talks to Jim White about the best players to have graced Goodison Park **8.00** The Family. Andrew Neil and a celebrity panel debate the future of British family life **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Let's Talk Soap **1.00** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Sports Zone **7.00** Under the Posts **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** This Woman Thing **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Record News **8.20** Off the Shelf: Enduring Love **8.35** Health Matters **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway Access **9.20** The Vintage Chart Show **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** The Farming World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Pick of the World **12.00** World News **12.05pm** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Health Matters **2.30** Meridian **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Record News **3.30** Composer Of the Month **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Warm World **7.00** World News **7.05** Health Matters **7.30** Clouded Hills **7.45** Off the Shelf: Enduring Love **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00** The World Today **12.30am** Health Matters **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Westway **1.45** Record News **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Warm World **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **9.00** Michael Mappin. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites **2.00pm** Concerto. Brull (Piano Concerto No 1) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. C.P.E. Bach (Magnificat); J.C. Bach (Quintet in D major), J.E. Bach (Violin Sonata in F major), J.S. Bach (Orchestral Suite No 3 in D major) **11.00** Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto. Brull (Piano Concerto No 1) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

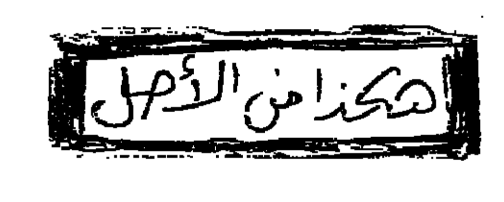
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Handel (Music for the Royal Fireworks); Scarlatti (Sonata in E, Kk531), Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez)
10.30 Artist of the Week This week, Joan Bakewell talks to the organist Gillian Weir
11.00 Sound Stories: Medical Matters The tale of Schubert's battle against syphilis
12.00 Composer of the Week: Richard Strauss
1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall. Peter Donohoe, piano. Bach (French Suite No 5 in G, BWV816); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in A, Op 2 No 2); Bartok (Piano Sonata)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Ion Marin and Tadaaki Otaka, with Fabio Bidini, piano, Barbara Hendricks, soprano. Liszt (Les preludes, Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat); Strauss (Four Last Songs); Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor)
4.00 Opera in Action Robert Lloyd explores the extraordinary number of fine voices that Wales has produced. Featured artists include Margaret Price, Stuart Burrows, Bryn Terfel, Della Jones and Dennis O'Neill
4.45 Music Machine Tommy Pearson begins a week in which he explores the art of performing chamber music
5.00 In Tune With Sean Rafferty. Including music by Ravel, Mozart and Berlioz, and Strauss's *Burleske*
7.30 Performance on 3: Myths in Music Live from the Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, the second of two concerts exploring mythology in music. Lilli Paasikivi, mezzo, Heikki Kilpelainen, baritone, Polytechnic Men's Chorus, Finnish RSO under Sakari Oramo. Klami (Lemminkainen's Adventures in Saari); Sibelius (Kullervo)
9.15 Postscript: The Pas de Deux An idiosyncratic history of classical duets
9.35 Bach and Shostakovich Olli Mustonen, piano, plays preludes and fugues from the first book of Bach's *The Well-Tempered Clavier*
10.00 Voices Iain Burnside presents the second of two programmes trawling through 75 years of Schubert lieder recordings
10.45 Mixing It Mark Russell and Robert Sandall introduce an all-CD edition
11.30 Jazz Notes This week, Alyn Shipton celebrates the art of the jazz record producer
12.00 Composer of the Week: Delius (r)
1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod. 1.00 Manderling Quartet 2.20 Alfven (Swedish Rhapsody No 1) 2.35 Sibelius (Sonatina, Op 67 No 1) 2.40 Constantin Regamey (Persian Songs) 3.00 Schools: Music Box 3.15 Something To Think About 3.30 EAL: Let's Make a Story 3.45. Stories and Rhymes 4.00 Find Out 4.15 Maths Challenge 4.30 Hopscotch 4.45 Scottish Resources 7-9 5.00 Mozart (Overture: The Marriage of Figaro) 5.20 Haydn (String Quartet, Op 64 No 2) 5.40 Franck (Prelude, Fugue and Variation)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Ashley Gething
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
9.00 Start the Week Discussion programme, hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: Letters from My Windmill Stephen Fry reads from Alphonse Daudet's passionate account of life in Provence
9.45 (LW) Daily Service From St Martin's Church, Belfast, led by the Rev Bert Tosh
10.00 Women's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests
11.00 Tuning into Children Kirsty Wark examines the importance of play to a child's development (5/6)
11.30 King of Bath Ambrose banks on Nash's help in acquiring pupils for his new school. Comedy by Arnold Evans, with Erny Thomas and David Bamber. Suffer Little Children (4/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and stories, with Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One News round-up, introduced by Nick Clarke
1.30 Counterpoint Third semi-final of the general knowledge music quiz, hosted by Ned Sherrin
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Letters from a Strange Land John Clifford's dramatisation of the true story of the adventurer Will Adams, who was shipwrecked in Japan while en route for the East Indies in 1598. With David Brooks and Burt Kwouk
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on financial issues
3.30 Carnival Tales New series. See Choice (1/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 51 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Food Programme Andrew Jefford investigates threats to Jamaica's banana groves (r)
4.30 Turning World Jenni Murray and guests look at human interest stories from around the world
5.00 PM Presented by Chris Lowe and Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute Clement Freud, Paul Merton, Richard Morton and Graham Norton try to speak for 60 seconds without hesitation, repetition or deviation at The Pleasance, Edinburgh Fringe. Presented by Nicholas Parsons
7.00 The Archers Bert gets back in
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson meets the bestselling writer Wilbur Smith
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Men in Black New series. See Choice (1/3)
8.30 Analysis Andrew Dilnot questions modern perceptions of wealth
9.00 Nature The fragile balance of nature which exists on isolated islands — a balance invariably jeopardised by human exploitation
9.30 Start the Week Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Strait is the Gate David McKail reads Andre Gide's story of lost love (r)
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Prettiest Girl in Texas Sebastian Baczkiewicz's tale of dodgy dealings in a deluxe Dallas motel. With Stuart Milligan and Laurel Lefkow
11.30 (FM) Crossing Over Robin Denselow talks to musicians passionate about other cultures, beginning with Graham Wiggins's mastery of the didgeridoo (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Round-up of the day's political news
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Mask of Command Tim Pigott-Smith reads John Keegan's account of leadership styles (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe



A little too much revealed on Comic Relief

REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

I blame *The Full Monty*. Charity telethons used to be full of celebrities missing most of the notes in *My Way* or performing feeble sketches. Now they are full of people taking their clothes off.

Last week I made a brief contribution to BBC1's *The Heaven and Earth Show*. The producers had read a column about last year's *Children In Need* expressing Scrooge-like sentiments about charity telethons and wanted someone to say "Bah! Humbug!" in a discussion of **Comic Relief** (BBC1 and 2, Friday).

I agreed only to express some ambivalent, worthy-but-dull reservations, because, as they constantly remind us, *Comic Relief* is different. It does help people to help themselves; it does attempt to educate the public about the political context to the beneficiaries' plight. It is, in the best sense of an all but meaningless expression, immaculately "PC". Unlike *Children in Need*, my own children actually want to watch it, so it becomes a family ritual.

Putting in an appearance must be all-but compulsory, the list of celebrity participants is so long. Agents probably see it as a profile-raising opportunity. It would be more interesting to know who had turned them down and why.

And I remain doggedly unimpressed that they have given so generously of their time. These are people many of whom earn more in a week than the punters they are asking to dig in their pockets earn in a year. A few hours knocking up a sloppy sketch with your pals isn't exactly a hardship. And some of the sketches and events were unusually sloppy this year, such as the record-breaking "gunging" which didn't actually gunge many of the record number of gungees.

It all ends up like a cheesy American sitcom where the "Special Guest Star" gets frantic applause merely for walking on the set. On *Comic Relief* everyone is a Special Guest Star. But it's all in a good cause, so we mustn't complain.

And then there was all that sponsored stripping, tastefully and unthreateningly distant. Our video packed up before Ewan McGregor lifted his kilt, but we saw *TFI Comic Relief's* nude football training under Gazza who remained fully panted. A more dismal and repulsive sight it is hard to conceive.

"I'll have to leave the country after this!" said Chris Evans with mock embarrassment. Chance would be a fine thing. TV's Mr Arrested Development has engineered a chance to flash his willy on television and we're supposed to believe he's embarrassed?

The real problem, I suppose, is that the bulk of the Great British public have to be flattered into doing anything about world poverty in these orgies of self-congratulatory romping. And that is not the fault of *Comic Relief*. The story that the charity has deliberately played down the fact that it is giving help to asylum-seekers in this country because their cause is unsexy speaks volumes. The abuse of this vilified group is a national scandal, but it seems that pointing this out to the nose-squeaking multitudes would poop the party.

I bet they couldn't raise much for a "Save The Woodlouse!" campaign either. Yet as **Violent Planet** (BBC1, yesterday) showed us, even in our nicer Victorian suburbs, woodlice are in deadly peril every time it rains. Wasps and bees, too can be plunged into a crisis requiring immediate humanitarian relief by a sudden downpour.

The sequence about British insects getting swept down gutters or drowned in drinks was a bizarre interlude in this BBC-Discovery Channel co-production. Because most of *Deluge*, the first of this three-part series, was about devastating flash-floods, hailstones the size of grapefruit and other cataclysmic phenomena.

The photography was, as ever, stunning, the pace frantic, the commentary dripping with solemn portent of ominous doom. Kangaroos raced from charging torrents, snow-hares from avalanches, in feats of over-extended parallel editing that would shame D.W. Griffiths or Steven Spielberg.

"Some scenes contain reconstructions or simulations," a caption announced at the end. You don't say! It was worth watching for the Amazonian fire-ants' amazing living-raft manoeuvre alone, but this is nature documentary for people with the attention span of a woodlouse falling down a drainpipe.

I have never understood what gets people about horse-racing. We all have our blind spots, and racing is one of mine. So I watched **Cheltenham, Festival of Dreams** (Channel 4, yesterday) in the hope that it would throw some light on the matter. The Festival is organised by the racecourse's affably efficient managing director, Edward Gillespie, and attracts crowds on a scale that dwarfs other events. Plane-loads of Irish punters invade the sleepy Gloucestershire hollow bent on a week of cracking whips and whipping craic.

I was at university with Edward, where we took part in a series of "comedy" revues which were probably, on reflection, dire beyond belief. But it came as no surprise to discover that he is liked and respected by his staff and that his enthusiasm for entertainment, racing and all the trappings thereof remains utterly undiminished.

Everyone obviously had a terrific time, especially Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, for whom the crowds part like the Red Sea when she sallies forth to the paddock. They lined the Guinness up in serried ranks; the sun shone and the bookies chortled merrily when the favourite didn't win. Even the jockey who fell under a horse emerged with only a broken collarbone. I still don't get it about horse-racing, I'm afraid, but the Cheltenham Festival is obviously an extremely jolly place to be.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (72592) **7.00** Breakfast News (18221) **9.00** Holby A Morning in Casualty (7603030) **9.10** Kilroy (2588931) **9.55** Docs on the Box (5409689) **10.05** The Vanessa Show (6288486) **10.55** News, Weather (3031573) **11.00** What's Up Doc? (9469370) **11.10** Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (3037757) **11.40** On-Call (1790711) **11.50** Viewers' Request (7907776) **11.55** News; Weather (7906047) **12.00** Call My Bluff (89660) **12.30pm** Top Tip Challenge (4572405) **12.55** The Weather Show (53616405)

1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (88080)

1.30 Regional News: Weather (59538080)

1.40 Neighbours (T) (35635733)

2.05 Ironside (r) (5899283)

2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (3553738)

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6435080) **3.45** Pocket Dragon (5090931) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (9710363) **4.10** Anthony Ant (6962757) **4.20** The Littlest Pet Shop (6715979) **4.35** Misery Guts (3019283) **5.00** Newsround (4731009) **5.10** Blue Peter (9478196)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (325863)

6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (283)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (863)

7.00 A Question of Sport (T) (2270)

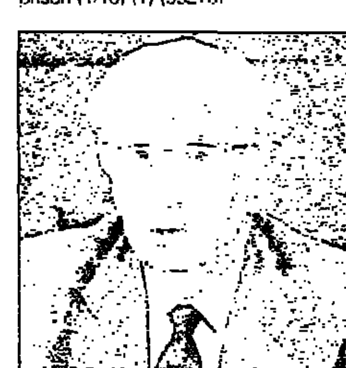
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck Report on the continuing dangers of white asbestos still used in building material (T) (937)

8.00 EastEnders Peggy tells Pat her worst fears (T) (6318)

8.30 Mrs Merton and Malcolm Sitcom with Caroline Aherne (4/6) (T) (5825)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News, Weather (T) (7641)

9.30 CHOICE **Jailbirds** New docusoap tracing life in a women-only prison (1/10) (T) (93270)



Under fire: Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC (10pm)

10.00 Panorama Gavin Hewitt investigates how far the Olympic ideal has been tarnished by the alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs (T) (743115)

10.40 Animal Police Stephanie puts several cats out of their misery (T) (353115)

11.10 Harbour Lights (r) (T) (797221)

12.05am The President's Analyst (1967) FILM A psychiatrist is pursued by international spies after being asked to treat the US President. Satirical comedy, starring James Coburn. Directed by Theodore J. Flicker (T) (701320)

1.40 Weather (1231210)

1.45 BBC News 24 (63359561)

WALES:

10.00 Labour of Love (T) (97689) **10.30 Panorama** (T) (530047) **11.15 Animal Police** (T) (177467) **11.45 Harbour Lights** (r) (T) (6424671) **12.35am FILM: The President's Analyst** (T) (676906) **2.10 News** (9528968) **2.15-6.00 BBC News 24** (58694332)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7417028) **7.05** Teletubbies (9782888) **7.30** Snorks (8362641) **7.50** Blue Peter (3470912) **8.20** Taz-Mania (5068202) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (1016950) **8.50** Romuald the Reindeer (1012134) **9.00** Space Ark (7634950) **9.10** Short Circuit (4366825) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (8755931) **9.45** Storytime (8750486) **10.00** Teletubbies (72931) **10.30** Words and Pictures (9295660) **10.45** Watch (9290115) **11.00** Look and Read (3211660) **11.20** Zig Zag (3168660) **11.40** Landmarks (6549641) **12.00** Job Bank (4089009) **12.10pm** History File (5251738) **12.30** Working Lunch (29776) **1.00** Romuald the Reindeer (68935080)

1.10 War Walks (r) (T) (41773776)

1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35699931)

2.10 Awash with Colour (56459080)

2.40 News; Weather (T) (3203370)

2.45 Match of Their Day (T) (4680844)

3.25 News; Weather (T) (4730196)

3.30 The Village (r) (9487028)

3.55 Kaye (9495047)

4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6174592)

4.55 Esther (T) (5159573)

5.30 Whose House? New game show, in which celebrities make investigations to track down the true occupants of a house. Hosted by Ross Kelly (912)

6.00 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (T) (130573)

6.15 The Simpsons (r) (T) (766912)

6.40 The Ren and Stimpy Show Double-bill of surreal antics (r) (T) (639554)

7.00 Internal Affairs Glimpse into the world of greyhound racing (T) (8912)

7.30 Rough Guide to the World Dimitri Doganis and Edith Bowman try to avoid the tourist traps of Japan (T) (689)

8.00 Disaster Reconstruction of the horrific Severn Tunnel rail crash of December 7, 1991 (T) (7660)

8.30 Food and Drink (T) (3467)



Phil Davis, Ray Winstone and Mark Strong don their togas (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Births, Marriages and Deaths** Josh's intimacy with Becky forces Molly reluctantly to reveal the identity of his father (4/4) (T) (9757)

10.00 If I Ruled the World (88931)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (534689)

11.15 Tribe The tensions within a group of competitive Jewish girls (175009)

11.45 Bitesize Britain (T) (215467)

11.55 Weather (634641)

12.00 Despatch Box (40061)

12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: The Palazzo Publico **1.00** Crossing the Border **1.30** Maarten Van Heemskerck **2.00** Schools: Seeing Through Science 1-5 **4.00** Languages: Make French Your Business Part 2 **5.00** Business and Training: Skills for Work **5.45** Open University: A Change of Key? **6.10** Scotland in the Enlightenment **6.35** The Impressionist Surface

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (85554)

6.00 GMTV (5753405)

9.25 Trisha (T) (8985134)

10.30 This Morning (T) (44507028)

12.15pm HTV News and Weather (4088370)

12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (4567573)

12.55 Shortland Street (9994283)

1.30 Home and Away Vinnie's secret is revealed (T) (35607950)

1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (3598514)

2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (8267842)

3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4739467)

3.15 HTV News (T) (4738738)

3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4742931) **3.30** Kipper (9702844) **3.40** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (9782080) **3.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches (5071283) **4.05** You'll Never Believe It (6167202) **4.30** Polterguests (486)

5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (5202)

5.30 WEST: Garden Calendar Sue King asks gardening experts Alan and Felicity Down for advice (T) (738)

5.30 WALES: House to House Makeovers in Llandrindod (T) (738)

5.58 HTV Weather (494283)

6.00 HTV News (T) (979)

6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (931)

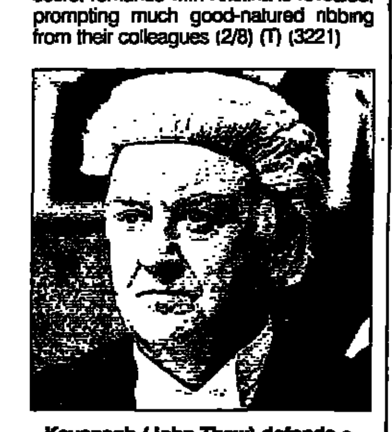
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers (806399)

7.00 Wish You Were Here? Anthea Turner tours Tuscany, Lynda Bellingham sees the sights in Minorca, Julian Ballantyne takes a break in Florida and Martin Roberts relaxes in Orkney (T) (2738)

7.30 Coronation Street Tracy goes on a shopping spree (T) (115)

8.00 Who Wants To Be a Millionaire? Ultimate big-prize game show (T) (1486)

8.30 Cop Shop Inspector Clive Ayling gets news about his promotion, and Ross's secret romance with Kristina is revealed, prompting much good-natured ribbing from their colleagues (2/8) (T) (3221)



Kavanagh (John Thaw) defends a young man accused of murder (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Kavanagh QC** A young man charged with killing his girlfriend is defended by Kavanagh, who is frustrated by his client's reluctance to explain what happened (2/4) (T) (3958)

10.30 The Grimleys Geraldine organises a careers talk (T) (91405)

11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (561863)

11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (430554)

11.30 Fitz Police uncover evidence suggesting that Ramos is the killer (T) (463680)

12.25am Football Extra Highlights (4935326)

1.25 World Football (r) (9248993)

2.00 Rio Diablo (1993) FILM An ageing bounty hunter helps a man to track down his bride, who was kidnapped on their wedding day by outlaws. Western, starring Kenny Rogers and Stacy Keach. Directed by Rod Hardy (791516)

3.35 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (2758603)

4.35 ITV Nightscreen (46457968)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (15516)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (7233738)

12.55 Home and Away (4575592)

1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4147486)

2.10-2.40 High Road (56486134)

3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (4738738)

5.30 Shortland Street (738)

6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (979)

11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (430554)

4.30am Central Jobfinder '99 (4581535)

5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3373622)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.15pm Westcountry News (4088370)

12.27-12.30 Illuminations (7241757)

12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (4575592)

1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4147486)

2.10-2.40 Home and Away (56486134)

3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (4738738)

4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7844689)

5.30 Animal SOS (738)

6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (979)

11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (430554)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4088370) **5.30 Country Ways** (r) (T) (738) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (979) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (140370) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (430554) **11.30-12.25 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (463680) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (15516)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7245573) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7233738) **5.25-5.30 Take It On** (8466824) **5.30-6.00 Anglia News Monday Extra;** Weather (T) (738) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (979) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (606893) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (430554)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (20129950) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67828009) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (99108202) **9.25 Schools at Work** (29749134) **9.30 Geography Junction** (74009405) **9.45 Book Box** (74097660) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (91852844) **10.15 Scotscapes** (91842467) **10.30 Place and People** (51570028) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (78216347) **11.00 Deuparth Gwaith** (15915776) **11.15 The Mix** (15905399) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (r) (T) (68270689) **12.00pm Right to Reply** (T) (97059757) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (26877202) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67821196) **1.30 Channel 4 at Cheltenham** (26876573) **2.00 Time Team** (T) (73905689) **3.00 Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan** (10/10) (T) (9013508 0) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67147080) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67166115) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (67162399) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90147825) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67186979) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93495912) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86985115) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90167689) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67163028) **8.00 Dudley** (T) (90143009) **8.30 Pwy Di Pwy?** (T) (90155844) **9.00 Taro Naw** (T) (68259196) **9.30 Sgorio** (T) (63560383) **10.35 Father Ted** (T) (35717405) **11.05 Cutting Edge** (T) (68639844) **12.05am Cheltenham: Festival of Dreams** (30899332) **1.05 Channel 4 at Cheltenham** (r) (87485177) **1.35 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion:**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (4210202)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (12301)

9.00 Schools: The English Programme (9374955) **9.25** Schools at Work (8803844) **9.30** Down to Earth (8757399) **9.45** Book Box (8745554) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9952592) **10.15** Scotscapes (9942115) **10.30** Place and People (1506738) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (8876009) **11.00** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (3159912) **11.15** The Mix (3172863)

11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (1844)

12.00 Sesame Street (T) (72370)

12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (14844)

1.00 Channel 4 at Cheltenham Preview of the festival (7853134)

1.35 The Three Stooges (r) (T) (74521216)

1.55 The Man Who Loved Redheads (1954) FILM A diplomat attempts to relive a passionate youthful fling by embarking on a series of affairs with women who resemble his former lover. Romantic drama, with John Justin. Directed by Harold French (T) (75204318)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (739)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (844)

4.30 Countdown (T) (3036950)

4.55 Montel Williams Men dating their daughters' friends (T) (5144641)

5.30 Pet Rescue Presented by Wendy Turner and Mark Evans (T) (680)

6.00 Roseanne As the family struggle to cope with the death of her father, Roseanne is left to console the others and make the funeral arrangements (r) (T) (221)

6.30 Hollyoaks Tony tries to impress (T) (573)

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (664282)

7.55 Bodyscapes Why people sweat in moments of anxiety (T) (924554)

8.00 To the Ends of the Earth The anthropologist Tudor Parfitt uses genetic research to determine whether Africa's Lemba tribe are of Jewish descent, as they claim (T) (5399)

9.00 CHOICE **Cutting Edge** Compelling portrait of the gun (T) (8863)



Matt Dillon stars as a disruptive teenage delinquent (10pm)

10.00 The Outsiders (1983) FILM A teenager from the wrong side of the tracks leads a high school gang against the town's rich kids. Melodrama, with Matt Dillon, C. Thomas Howell and Tom Cruise. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola (T) (972221)

11.40 Channel 4 at Cheltenham Preview of the festival (r) (T) (543757)

12.15am The Calendar (1948) FILM John McCallum stars as a racehorse owner accused of fixing a race. Comedy thriller, with Greta Gynt and Raymond Lovell. Directed by Arthur Crabtree (9822245)

1.40 Dispatches (r) (T) (2977993)

2.15 Powerhouse Political news (r) (27784)

2.45 Right to Reply (r) (T) (8789516)

3.10 The Client Reggie is assigned to protect a couple from an enraged family member out to prevent their forthcoming marriage (r) (8570429) **4.00** Schools

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (1804450)

7.00 WideWorld Part 17. Projects bringing education to the people (r) (T) (8927863)

7.30 Milkshake! (2459689)

7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4438318)

8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2644641)

8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2643912)

9.00 Was It Good for You? (r) (2466739)

9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4203660)

9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (3736919)

10.20 Sunset Beach Meg confronts Ben (T) (3490202)

11.10 Leeza (8460711)

12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2654028)

12.30 Family Affairs Pete gets his comeuppance (r) (T) (1025950)

1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Jessica is urged to tell Dylan about the rape (T) (8926134)

1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment show; 5 News Update (1024221)

2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9903950)

2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap *Liverpool Mums*. Eric Knowles with *Selling the Family Silver* and word game *Cryptogram*; 5 News Update (1518738)

3.30 Codename: Dancer (TVM 1987) FILM A schoolteacher returns to her former career as a government agent to rescue an American spy held hostage in Cuba. Thriller, starring Kate Capshaw. Directed by Buzz Kulik (T) (3832455)

5.20 5 News (93976459)

5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (14993270)

5.30 100 Per Cent (2257318)

6.00 5 News; Weather Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (2247931)

6.30 Family Affairs Gabby and Declan get intimate (T) (2238283)

7.00 Knight Rider Adventure series about a hi-tech vigilante and his interactive car. David Hasselhoff stars (r) (9981738)

7.30 Natural Passions Documentary charting the work of bush patrols to eradicate poaching and the international trade in rare species (T); 5 News Update (2234467)

8.00 Instant Gardens The team construct the minimalist garden in Leicestershire (6/14) (T) (9990486)

8.30 Animal ER Keith Cutler performs an emergency Caesarean on a cow, while Margaret Goddard is visibly shocked by a neglected dog brought in for treatment (5/6) (T); 5 News Update (9902221)

9.00 An Occasional Hell (TVM 1996) FILM A policeman-turned-college professor falls back on his investigative skills to hunt a colleague's killer — and is disturbed to find all evidence pointing towards the dead man's wife. Thriller, starring Tom Berenger, Valeria Golino and Robert Davi. Directed by Salome Breziner (T); 5 News Update (81002405)

10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update The latest pop hits (8256467)

10.55 V Resistance fighters protect the Earth's water supply (r) (84095196)

12.45am Live and Dangerous Action from the Winter X Games (65005719)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Lou faces a charge of accessory to murder (7938790)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8546697)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am [illegible] **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **8.30** Hollywood Squares [illegible] **9.00** [illegible] **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show [illegible] **11.00** [illegible] **12.00** Jenny Jones [illegible] **1.00pm** Mad About You [illegible] **1.30** [illegible] **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael [illegible] **3.00** Jenny Jones [illegible] **4.00** [illegible] **5.00** Star Trek [illegible] **6.00** America's Dumbest [illegible] **6.30** Friends [illegible] **7.00** The Simpsons [illegible] **7.30** The Simpsons [illegible] **8.00** [illegible] **9.00** [illegible] **10.00** Seinfeld [illegible] **11.00** Friends [illegible] **11.30** [illegible] **12.30am** The [illegible] **1.30** Long Play [illegible]

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone [illegible]
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 [illegible]
Firestorm (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 [illegible]
Fallen (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 [illegible]
Flubber (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 [illegible]
Double Team (1997)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Last Stand at Saber River (1997) (79663057) **7.35 Evita (1996)** [illegible] **9.50 The Tin Soldier (1995)** [illegible] **11.30 Last Stand at Saber River (1997)** (96006466) **1.15 Evita (1996)** [illegible] **3.30** Barry Norman's Film Night [illegible] **4.00 The Tin Soldier (1995)** [illegible] **6.00 Little Monsters (1989)** [illegible] **8.00 Independence Day (1996)** [illegible] **10.25 The Untouchables (1987)** [illegible] **12.25am Sleepers (1996)** [illegible] **2.50 Some Mother's Son (1996)** [illegible]

SKY MOVIEMAX

7.00am Femmes Fatales [illegible] **7.30** Movie Magic (1401134) **8.15** Action Heroes [illegible] **9.00 Coyote Summer (1996)** [illegible] **11.00 Ed (1996)** [illegible] **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales [illegible] **1.30** Movie Magic [illegible] **2.15** Action Heroes [illegible] **3.00 Desperate (1947)** [illegible] **5.00 Coyote Summer (1996)** [illegible] **7.00 Ed (1996)** [illegible] **8.30 Joe's Apartment (1996)** [illegible] **10.00** Moviewatch [illegible] **11.00 Bound (1996)** [illegible] **12.50am Next of Kin (1989)** [illegible] **2.40 Home Invasion (1997)** [illegible] **4.10 Showdown in Little Tokyo (1991)** [illegible]

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Destination Gobi (1953) [illegible] **5.30 Howards End (1992)** [illegible] **8.00 The Seven-Ups (1973)** [illegible] **10.00 Rebecca (1940)** [illegible] **12.10am Days of Glory (1944)** [illegible] **1.40 Quintet (1979)** [illegible] **3.40 The Glass Menagerie (1950)** [illegible]

FILMFOUR

6.00pm His Girl Friday (1940) [illegible] **7.35** [illegible] **8.00 1984 (1984)** [illegible] **9.40** Trevor [illegible] **10.15 Maurice (1987)** [illegible] **12.40am Another Country (1984)** [illegible] **2.10 Sunday (1997)** [illegible] **3.40 Before Sunrise (1995)** [illegible] **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Lust for Life (1956) [illegible] **11.30 The VIPs (1963)** [illegible] **1.45am The Walking Stick (1970)** [illegible] **3.30 Escape from East Berlin (1962)** [illegible] **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Football Special **8.30** Snow Show **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Scottish Football Special **11.00** Football League Review **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** What a Weekend **1.00** Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** Basketball and [illegible] World **5.00** Max Power **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** Football League Review **8.00** Sports Auction — Live **9.30** What a Weekend **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports **11.00** Football League Review **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15pm** You're On Sky Sports **1.00** Football League Review **2.00** Total Sport **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Racing News **8.00** US Golf **11.00** European Tour Golf **1.00pm** Basketball **3.00** Live International Cricket **10.00** Table Tennis **11.00** Total Sport **11.30** World Motor Sport **2.30am** International Boxing **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Rugby League **1.30pm** Badminton **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** Table Tennis **7.00** V-Max **7.30** Total Sport **8.00** International Bowls **10.00** Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing: A to Z of Motor Sport **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism **8.30** Alpine Skiing **9.30** Biathlon **11.00** Rally **11.30** Speed Skating **12.30pm** Equestrianism **1.30** Snooker **3.00** Ski Jumping **4.00** Women's Biathlon **5.00** Truck Sports **6.00** Adventure **6.30** Dog Sled Racing **7.00** Extreme Sports **8.00** Trial **9.00** Boxing **10.00** Football: Eurogoals **11.30** Football **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** Pride and Prejudice **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Casualty **10.05** Silent Witness **11.50** The Bill **12.50am** Blackadder the Third **1.25** French and Saunders **2.00** Dangerfield **3.00** Shopping

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** Odd Couple **8.00** Hallelujah **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** Benny Hill **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Brian Conley **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' **11.00** Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close



Charles Martin Smith, Kevin Costner, Sean Connery and Andy Garcia are *The Untouchables* (Sky Premier, 10.25pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.05pm** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Cinderella (1997) 8.25** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.10** Double Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched By An Angel **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek! Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek! Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear etc **2.30** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempestt **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (1977) 1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Let's Get Laid! (1977) 5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Fibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** The Twilight Zone **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Timecop (1994) 12.00** VR 5 **1.00am FILM: Poltergeist II: The Other Side (1986) 2.40** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Two's Country Cooking **11.00** The Diceman **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures **12.00** Our House Down Under **12.30pm** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Charlie West Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** A River Somewhere **5.00** Hitler **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Africa **7.30** The Quest **8.00** Nick's Quest **8.30** The Supernatural **9.00** Killer Quake **10.00** Amazing Earth **11.00** Test Flights **12.00** The Great Egyptians **1.00am** Hitler **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30pm** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Deadly Australians **2.00** It's a Vet's Life **2.30** HumanNature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **9.00** Wild at Heart **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Savage Season **11.00** Breed All About It: Greyhounds **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm World of the Kingfisher **7.30** Okavango Diary **8.00** Land of the Anaconda **9.00** Ron Haviv: Freelance in a World of Risk **10.00** The Mystery of the Cocaine Mummies **11.00** Lost Worlds: In Search of Human Origins — Part Three **12.00** On the Edge. Nuclear Nomads **12.30am** On the Edge: U-Boats — Terror on the Shores

HISTORY

4.00pm Vietnam: America in Vietnam **5.00** Project Cancelled. The Fairey Delta Two **6.00** Ancient Egypt: Quest for Immortality **7.00** Fabulous Fortunes. Lucky Strike **7.30** I, Witness. *Joining Up*

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** First Taste **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Nordic Nosh **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Lunch with Ed Baines **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Cooked in a Flash **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** Grape Expectations **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 plus 2 **6.40** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Through the Keyhole **5.10** The Heat Is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Loving Evangeline (1998) 11.00** Sex Files II **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Sa Re Ga Ma **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Tara **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Banegi Apni Baat **10.00** Pal-Do-Pal **11.00** Jhal Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM 3.00pm** Nokatirer Rat **3.30** Ikke Pe Ikka **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Love Stories **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Teacher **7.00** Ghar Jamai **7.30** Film Baetein **8.00** News **8.30** Mausam **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** Big Debate **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Blunt Two **12.00** News **12.30am** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Karobar Duniya **1.30** Parmartan **2.00 FILM 4.30** Revathi

PROFILE 44 Behind the scenes at National Grid

BUSINESS

INTEREST 45 Base rates fall not over, says Roger Bootle





The Lord Mayor has asked the Corporation of London to examine ways of cutting the number of roadworks in the City, where Bishopsgate was dug up 333 times over a three-year period

Utilities in London face road-up fine

ENGINEERS and legal experts at the Corporation of London will meet tomorrow to consider measures to combat the long-running traffic chaos in the City caused by endless roadworks carried out by utilities (Martin Waller writes).

The meeting has been brought forward by the Lord Mayor, Lord Levene of Portsoken, who is keen to see the Corporation given new powers to co-ordinate such roadworks and keep disruption to a mimimum.

This week a Private Member's Bill from Christopher Fraser, Conservative MP for Mid-Dorset and North Poole, which would give local authorities power to fine utilities who overrun time limits, again goes before the House of Commons. Last Friday the Bill failed to gain a second reading.

But Lord Levene has asked the Corporation to look at other ways of cutting the number of holes dug in the City's roads. The record is thought to be held by Bishopsgate, which, over a three-year period, was dug up 333 times.

Rover offered £200m in aid for productivity

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR
AND CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Government will tomorrow offer BMW, the German carmaker, an unprecedented £200 million aid-for-productivity deal to save Rover's troubled Longbridge plant and up to 10,000 jobs.

Amid rising optimism that the plant's long-term survival can be safeguarded, Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, is preparing to tell the company's top officials that substantial state aid is available — but that it must be matched by a big investment by BMW (up to £1 billion) and that government help will be tied to increased efficiency.

Mr Byers will propose that while some of the £200 million government money will be paid up front, the rest will be paid in instalments over a five-year period and will be dependent on the company showing that productivity is increasing.

The workers at Longbridge have already backed productivity improvements; the Government is looking to the company to invest in skills training and plant redesign.

If BMW agrees to the deal — and ministers are optimistic that it will — it will be presented by the Government as a "new Labour solution". It will emphasise that it is not a "bail-out" for a failing company and that any government assistance is clearly targeted.

The Government is expected to finalise its package today, which will include direct government money, some from the European Union, and local authority and training and enterprise council grants.

Tomorrow and on Wednesday there are expected to be high-level contacts between the Government and BMW to discuss the Government's proposed terms. The crunch meeting for Rover and the Government will take place in Munich on Thursday, when BMW's supervisory board meets to make a decision. The date is the fifth anniversary of the £800 million purchase of Rover.

Ministers hope that the deal will be enough to persuade the company to go for Rover and to reject a rival Hungarian offer. The Government of the latter is believed to be offering tax breaks and flexible working patterns to BMW. Within the company there are signs that the damage to BMW's reputation that would result from a decision to wind down the main Rover plant is likely tip the scales in favour of Britain.

However, Tony Blair has been anxious to counter the impression that Labour is an easy touch for flagging industries, hence the insistence on increased productivity.

BMW has suggested during talks that the factory will need to produce 500,000 vehicles a year to be viable in the long-term. The company has already poured more than £2 billion into the ailing plant over the past eight years. Joachim Milberg, BMW's new chief executive, is believed to favour keeping Longbridge open but wants to scale down the level of the investment planned.

☐ Ford, the US carmaker, said yesterday that there was no question of it closing its South Wales plant or shedding jobs there. John Gardiner, Ford's spokesman in Britain, was responding to reports that Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, was to meet Ford officials in Detroit amid fears that up to 300 Bridgend jobs were at risk.

RENAULT MAY REVERSE INTO NISSAN

RENAULT, the French car manufacturer, is to purchase a 40 per cent stake in Nissan for about £2.6 billion this week, according to *Asahi Shimbun*, the leading Japanese financial newspaper (Caroline Merrell writes).

A deal with the troubled Japanese carmaker would push Renault into the big league. It would become the fourth-biggest car company in terms of output, ahead of Volkswagen and DaimlerChrysler. Renault is number ten worldwide in terms of car output, well behind Nissan, which is ranked sixth. But Nissan's debts and losses, coupled with its shrinking market capitalisation, gave Renault a chance to forge a global alliance in which it would *not* be a junior partner.

"A company like Honda is worth three or four times Renault. The likelihood of a balanced alliance would be slim. We need someone who's looking for a deal," said Louis Schweitzer, Renault's chairman, last week. A key issue is Nissan's debt load — $17 billion (£10 billion) at the end of 1998. The money from Renault would be used to reduce debt and finance a restructuring. Renault would ask for three seats on the board.

Deloitte & Touche under the microscope

BY JASON NISSÉ

DELOITTE & TOUCHE, the accountant, is being investigated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales over its auditing of Capital Corporation, the troubled gaming group, which issues full-year results this week.

The Department of Trade and Industry is also understood to be interested in the outcome of the investigation, which is being conducted by the Professional Standards Office, after it received a file of complaints about the running of Capital. The investigation is understood to centre on Deloitte's auditing of Capital's 1995, 1996 and 1997 accounts, all of which were given unqualified audit reports.

During this period the running of Capital — best known for its Crockfords casino in Mayfair — has been the subject of a great deal of controversy, with allegations of gaming fraud, petty theft and lack of controls. There was also concern about the fact that no accounts were produced by Capital's pension fund for five years.

There was also an unseemly row over whether the company should have issued a profit warning in October 1996. In the midst of this the company was subject to a hostile takeover bid from London Clubs International, which failed only when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission blocked it.

Concerns started in 1995 when it emerged that there were difficulties with the internal controls at Capital Corporation. Deloitte is understood to have asked for a "formal note of undertaking by the Board of Capital Corporation" to address this before it would sign off the accounts.

This undertaking was given, but many of the problems continued. The then chief executive, Kenneth Thompson, commissioned external reports from Price Waterhouse, the accountant, Network Security, the private detective, and Andrew Tottenham, a gaming expert. These inquiries found a series of problems with both the running of the company and the checks being made by Deloitte.

In October 1996 Mr Thompson was taken ill. While he was away from the company, it became clear that the group's profits would fall well below City expectations.

However, after a meeting of the board and its advisers — which included Hambros, the merchant bank, and Deloitte — it was decided that a profits warning would not be issued. Though not at the meeting, Mr Thompson argued that this was the wrong thing to do.

The 1996 results appeared in March 1997. The accounts were not qualified despite many of the issues highlighed in the 1995 audit not having been fully addressed.



Capital Corporation was best known for its Crockfords casino

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1665

ACROSS
1 Asymmetrical: biassed (4)
3 In professional training (8)
8 Evenly spaced (7)
10 Deprives of feeling (5)
11 (French) tiff (11)
13 Superfluity (6)
15 Absence of social conscience (6)
17 Able to regulate body heat: ardent (4-7)
20 Friendship (5)
21 Giving ease (7)
22 (Human) statuette (8)
23 Disease-causing organism (4)

DOWN
1 Rim projection (8)
2 Scot. town: a collecting Lord (5)
4 Unusual item (6)
5 Humiliating (11)
6 Money as single payment (4,3)
7 Furniture to work at (4)
9 Our Father (5,6)
12 To-and-fro device (8)
14 Aircraft engine cover (7)
16 Husband of Titania (6)
18 *Journal of Plague Year* author (5)
19 Non-U (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1664
ACROSS: 1 Garibaldi 6 Hub 8 No doubt 9 Cater 10 Ajar 11 Geomancy 13 Flagon 14 Crisis 17 Ideogram 18 Atop 20 Guile 21 Termini 22 Tag 23 Recumbent
DOWN: 1 Gandalf 2 Rude awakening 3 Bout 4 Lather 5 In camera 6 Hit one's stride 7 Burly 12 Longueur 15 Sophist 16 Mastic 17 Ingot 19 Tram

Insurers' pension fear may cost City billions

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE City is facing the loss of billions of pounds of revenue as insurance companies, fearful of another mis-selling scandal, stop selling personal pension plans that fail to match the Government's new stakeholder criteria.

Some firms are so concerned about the consequences of recommending unsuitable products that they are preparing a moratorium on the sale of long-term regular premium pensions with high up-front charges.

They are afraid that when the cheap, simple stakeholder pension is introduced in two years' time, some of the old-style plans will be exposed as unjustifiably expensive. A number of firms are intending to concentrate on single-premium pension plans to avoid becoming embroiled in further accusations of mis-selling.

The cost to the insurance industry of the two-year delay could be billions of pounds. Companies sold £1.1 billion worth of new regular premium contracts in 1998, plus £507 million of additions to existing policies and £4.5 billion worth of single-premium plans.

The Association of British Insurers, the industry's trade body, has unofficially told members to consider the charging structure of the pensions they are selling.

Tony Baker, deputy director-general of the ABI, said: "We have told companies that they should be careful about selling any products with high initial charges, transfer penalties, or where customers will have to pay twice for advice.

"Making these judgments is not easy and it means a lot of regular premium contracts may not be sold in the next two years."

Insurers are desperate not to repeat the mis-selling scandal of the 1980s and 1990s that could eventually cost the industry £22 billion. As a result, some have decided to concentrate on single-premium products or the new individual savings account (Isa) instead. In response to industry concerns, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) is preparing to issue guidelines within the next few weeks.

An FSA spokeswoman said: "The guidelines will say that if insurance companies think a stakeholder pension would be more suitable for a client, then they should not sell them long-term products with high front-end charges. It is a warning shot across the bows because prevention now is better than having to find a cure later."

Weekend Money website: http://www.times-money.co.uk

EU tax back in spotlight

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE meeting of European finance ministers in Brussels today will again consider the so-called "withholding tax", a measure proposed by the European Commission as part of moves towards tax harmonisation. Critics say it could cost up to 110,000 jobs in the City.

Financial institutions in London have urged Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to use his power of veto to block the measure, but this is thought unlikely at today's meeting.

The Treasury has said it will not sanction any move that would harm London as an international financial centre, but it has stopped short of condemning the tax outright. Its critics fear that finance ministers will eventually arrive at a compromise with a watered-down version of the tax, perhaps in exchange for a greater opening-up of continental financial services markets.

OEF predicts deeper recession

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE manufacturing recession has yet to take its full toll of the growing services sector and could push the country into a deeper downturn than the Treasury is expecting, a leading economics think-tank predicts today.

Oxford Economic Forecasting said that declining manufacturing output would have a knock-on effect on the demand for services, with transport and support services especially under threat. The warning comes despite growing hopes in the markets that Britain's economy is on course for a soft landing. The tax-cutting element of last week's Budget has even led some analysts to speculate that interest rates have now reached the bottom of the cycle.

Analysts are eagerly awaiting the publication of the minutes from the last Monetary Policy Committee meeting later this week for clues as to whether the Bank of England's decision to leave rates on hold merely reflected a pause or signalled a halt to the Bank's rate-cutting spree. The MPC's views on the Budget arithmetic are likely to prove especially crucial to the immediate outlook for rates.

OEF argues in its latest UK Industrial Prospects, however, that interest rates will still fall by at least another half point by the summer, and with inflation expected to fall below target later this year could be reduced even further.

Overall economic growth will slide to just 0.4 per cent this year with the first two quarters likely to see negative growth, leaving the country in a technical recession. Manufacturing output will slump by 1.4 per cent this year and will have a strong dampening impact on the services sector.

However, the report adds that with only about 10 per cent of services turnover directly related to sales to the manufacturing sectors, the more painful impact is likely to come indirectly through a substantial rise in manufacturing unemployment denting consumer confidence.

